

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

AND
Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

No. 1860.

LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1852.

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NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.—FACULTY OF ARTS. The Session of 1852-3 will commence on THURSDAY, September 30th, at Twelve o'clock. The Classes are open to Lay Students without distinction of religious denomination.

CLASSES.
RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION—The Rev. John Harris, D.D., Principal.
GREEK AND LATIN—Professor William Smith, LL.D.
MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL PHILOSOPHY—Professor Dr. Rev. Philip Smith, B.A.
MENTAL AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY, LOGIC, AND Rhetoric—Professor the Rev. J. H. Godwin.
THE NATURAL HISTORY SCIENCES—Professor Edwin Lankester, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.L.S.
GERMAN—Professor the Rev. Maurice Nenner.
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Information respecting the Residence of Students, and all other necessary particulars, may be obtained from the Secretary upon application, personally or by letter, at the College, in the Finchley Road, St. John's Wood.
Prospectuses may be obtained at the College, or of Messrs. Jackson and Walford, 18, St. Paul's Churchyard.
JOHN HARRIS, D.D., Principal.
WILLIAM FARRER, LL.B., Secretary.
Sept. 1, 1852.

GUY'S, 1852-3.—THE MEDICAL SESSION commences on the 1st of October. The INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS will be given by ALFRED S. TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S., on Friday, the 1st of October, at Two o'clock.
Students desirous of becoming students must produce satisfactory testimony as to their education and conduct. They are required to pay £40 for the first year, £40 for the second year, and £10 for every succeeding year of attendance. One payment of £10 entitles a student to a perpetual ticket.
Clinical clerks, dressers, ward clerks, dressers' reporters, obstetric residents, and ophthalmic clerks, are selected according to the merit of those students who have attended a second year.
Mr. Stocker, apothecary to Guy's Hospital, is authorized to enter the names of students, and to give further information if required.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY, Oxford Street, London.—The Course of Instruction in this Institution is under the direction of Dr. A. W. HOFMANN. Hours of Attendance from Nine to Five.
The Winter Session will commence on Monday, the 4th of October next, and end on Saturday, the 19th of February, 1853.
The Fee for Students working every day in the Laboratory during the Session, is..... £15 0 0
Four days in the week 12 0 0
Three days in the week 10 0 0
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One day in the week 5 0 0
Chemical Lectures will be delivered three times a week, the Fee for which is £2 2s. Members of the College have Free Admission. Further particulars may be had by application at the College.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1852.

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The Germania of Tacitus; with Ethnological Dissertations and Notes. By R. G. Latham, M.D., F.R.S. Svo. Taylor, Walton, and Maberly.

THE editions of the 'Germania' of Tacitus form a small library; and yet there was room for Dr. Latham's present work. There is indeed no portion of ancient literature, if we except a few obscure treatises on music, which so much requires elucidation, as the writings of the Greek and Roman geographers. If we possessed in their integrity the works of the great Alexandrian cosmogoners, much of this obscurity would be removed. We should at least understand the prevailing errors or the positive ignorance of the Greeks in a branch of science which, even among the moderns, is of comparatively recent origin. Scientific geography, indeed, dates only from D'Anville. Cluverius, Cellarius, and Ortelius were merely lackeys of the ancients, who took every word they found in ancient books for granted. But with fragments only of Ptolemy and Eratosthenes before us, the classical geographers need all the adjuncts of modern observation to render them intelligible. They were too often mere rhetoricians, who wrote eloquently upon facts, and wandered in a maze of speculation; or "insolent and haughty" sciolists, who looked with contempt upon all un-Hellenic or un-Italian races; or, lastly, they were men who, like Polybius, Strabo, and Tacitus, generalised upon the observations of others, but were debarred by the scantiness or inaccuracy of their materials from generalising on sound principles.

The Roman 'Itineraries' are tolerably exact samples of the geographical treatises of the ancients. The 'Itinerary,' as its name implies, shows how the great lines of military occupation radiated over subject districts. But they show nothing more. Of the people whose territories these radii traversed, the 'Itineraries' are silent, or at most they indicate such general divisions and intermixtures of races, as irritate without gratifying our curiosity. As the barbarians come more and more into contact with the empire, we gain, indeed, clearer hints of their names and local habitations; and contemporary letters, poems, and chronicles come to the aid of the imperial 'Road Books.' Yet the verses of Ausonius and Claudian, and the epistles of Sidonius and Symmachus, speak in such vague terms of the uncouth designations and ferocious habits of the invaders, that we can only infer from them, that the men who were cooped in cities regarded with alarm and disgust the men who roamed over the wild, and seemed to be commissioned by some mysterious Nemesis to level and efface civilisation. From ecclesiastical writers we gather a few more particulars—yet few of much service for ethnology. For as the invaders of the empire were mostly Arians in creed, the terrors which they inspired were aggravated further by theological antipathy.

A difficulty meets us at the very outset of the 'Germania of Tacitus.' With what purpose did he compose his narrative, at once so vivid, interesting, and vague? If the historian intended, as has been with much reason supposed, to set before his degenerating countrymen a portrait of races who retained the hardy virtues which the conquerors of the

world had lost, his treatise must be viewed as an ethic rather than as a geographical work. And in the striking contrast which he draws by implication between the emasculation of cities and the robust qualities of the dwellers in the wild, Tacitus has probably forestalled the philosophers of the 18th century in representing civic life as irredeemably vicious, and country life as essentially virtuous. But if, on the other hand, he intended to write a formal treatise on geography, we must pronounce his success at least dubious, since the number of commentaries which he has hitherto required is no mean proof of the obscurity of his delineations. A third supposition remains, which will acquit the author of imperfection, without, however, adding to the value of his work. It has been suggested, that in the 'Germania' we have merely a collection of notes, which the author intended to work up afterwards into some finished whole, like his 'History' and 'Annals.' This surmise is the more probable, if we bear in mind that the elder Pliny held a high command in Germany, and was pretty certain, from his encyclopedic pursuit of knowledge, to have kept a notebook of what he saw and heard; that his nephew, the younger Pliny, inherited his papers, and was the intimate friend of Tacitus. In the 'Germania' we have probably a worked-up transcript of the 'Ephemerides of Journals beyond the Alps' of the great Roman naturalist.

Dr. Latham's commentary on this work is more properly ethnological than geographical. He has endeavoured to thread the maze of rumours about the German races, which, rather than any exact reports, made up the sum of knowledge possessed by Tacitus and his contemporaries of the names, sites, and habits of the Transalpine races. He labours to show how far the Teutonic and how far the Keltic element prevailed from the Zuyder Zee to the confines of Gaul and Illyricum. Germany Proper—so far as that designation can be applied to the floating population of Central Europe in the second century of our era—he restricts to narrower limits than most of his predecessors have assigned to it. He shows, with much learning and probability, that the collision and interweaving of the Kelts and Teutons have been hitherto much under-rated. He traces the principal leagues of these races, and proves how often merely conventional names for casual or political combinations have been mistaken for proper generic appellations. He has also displayed great skill and learning in detecting the various phases which at different eras the German tribes presented, and how frequently geographers have described their temporary as their permanent aspects.

With many of the Doctor's speculations we cannot agree, while we fully admit the learning and plausibility with which he supports them. Our most serious objection to his work, however, is the very abrupt and unreadable style in which so much of it is written. Dr. Latham seems to have fancied that his readers would be won by axioms; and that the more his sentences resembled oracles in form, the more immediate conviction they would produce. If we have been right in surmising that in the 'Germania' we have a commonplace book of Tacitus, we may fairly extend our surmise to Dr. Latham's commentary. He has not, indeed, built with untempered mortar. On the contrary, he appears to have been content with a rough wall, and to have abjured the use of cement of any kind. We

can understand the convenience of such a form in a syllabus of lectures, when the *vox viva* of the lecture supplies the chasms, and where the audience requires stepping-stones from time to time. But we cannot understand why a book should have been rendered, as it would seem, purposely unreadable by one who is no 'prentice hand in the art of composition.

Again, for the class of readers whom Dr. Latham addresses—and his book will hardly be taken up the Rhine by a mere sauntering tourist—Caesar, Pliny, and Tacitus are not inaccessible volumes. But Dr. Latham seems to have thought them hard to come by, and has increased the bulk of his volume most needlessly by extracting a series of chapters from these authors. We do not hold in much esteem the art of book-making. Yet every art and mystery has its laws; and Dr. Latham, in his practice on the present occasion, appears to us to have most ruthlessly neglected all the rules and courtesies of arrangement. His axioms are enunciated after the following severe fashion:—

"The methods of ethnological investigation in the present volume are best collected from the text.

"The result is a Germany of very different magnitude from that of the usual commentators.

"If this be unsatisfactory, there is still some gain to the cause of scholarship.

"The extent to which migrations may be unnecessarily assumed or reasonably dispensed with, is measured; so that, to draw a comparison from the exact sciences, an ethnological work without great migrations is like a geometry without axioms.

"The extent of the difficulties and assumptions of the existing belief as to the magnitude of ancient Germany may also be measured."

And so on.

The tendency of too many English scholars of late years has been to conduct their researches in an almost servile spirit of dependence upon their German brethren. Even the late Dr. Arnold, with all his admirable qualities as an historian, seldom ventures in his first two volumes to advance an opinion which Niebuhr has not already stamped at his mint. Niebuhr's judgment on most of the constitutional questions in early Roman annals is indeed of nearly sovereign authority; but he is by no means a sure and certain guide for individual facts. A quarter of a century ago English scholarship, the lees of the Porson school, was in so feeble a condition in all but strictly metrical and grammatical points, that this subservience to the continental philosophers was nearly as much a matter of necessity as of choice. But a change—and a change infinitely for the better—has subsequently come over the classical scholarship of this country; and while we have such names to exhibit as those of Mr. Grote, the Bishop of St. David's, Mr. Long, Professor Malden, Dr. Donaldson, and others, we can afford to take the Germans at their real worth, and to follow them in an enlightened, and not in a spell-bound spirit. We therefore rejoice to find the following passage in Dr. Latham's preface:—

"I rarely mention the great writers of Germany—Zeuss, Grimm, Niebuhr, &c.—except to differ from them; as a set-off to this, I may add that it is almost wholly by means of their own weapons that they are combated. Whether the present work took its present form, or that of a translation of Zeuss's learned and indispensable work, with an elaborate commentary, was a mere question of convenience.

"To it I am under the same obligations as the learner of a language is to his grammar, his lexicon,

or his text-book; and it is not saying too much to add that nineteen out of twenty of the references and quotations are Zeuss's."

This is the "service of perfect freedom," and is alike honourable to the giver and the receiver of the acknowledgment.

We conclude our notice of Dr. Latham's very learned, very suggestive, yet somewhat eccentric work, with his speculations on the "Germanic Area of Tacitus":—

"The Germany of Tacitus extends from the Rhine to the parts about the amber-country of Courland on the north, and as far as Galicia on the south.

"For the intermediate portion of Europe, the frontier is carried at least as far as the most eastern of these points: and possibly farther—possibly farther, because the central nation of the *Lygii*, whose country coincides with the modern kingdom of Poland, is described as a large one.

"With these limits it includes Mecklenburg, Brandenburg, Pomerania, East and West Prussia, Saxony, Silesia, Bohemia, and Poland.

"By the *Germany* of Tacitus, I mean Tacitus according to the usual interpretation; without either affirming or denying that his text requires this extent of country to verify it.

"Yet it by no means follows that, because the *Germania* of Tacitus constitutes a very large tract of country, the whole of the area occupied by the Germanic stock was therefore known to that author.

"He writes that it was separated from Dacia and Sarmatia *montibus aut mutuo metu*.

"This is not the language of a precise geographer,—indeed, precise geography for the parts in question was in Tacitus's time an impossibility.

"Hence, any writer who may hold that there was a Germany or Germans, either to the north or to the east of the limits ascribed in the *Germania*, holds nothing unreasonable. The Dacians and Sarmatians might only have interrupted the outline of that area; in which case Germans might reappear on the lower Danube, or in Western Russia, Germans of whom Tacitus knew nothing, and of whom he had lost sight on reaching the Dacian and Sarmatian frontier.

"There is nothing unreasonable in all this; and the likelihood of the Germanic area of Tacitus being smaller, is just as open a question as the likelihood of its being larger, than the real one. Individually, I believe it to be wide; but that is no reason why others should not consider it too narrow."

We have, since the appearance of Dr. Latham's work, looked over the '*Germania*' edited by Wex; but we do not find that that author has materially added to the field of knowledge or theory opened by his English contemporary.

Canada, as it was, is, and may be. By Lieut.-Colonel-Sir Richard H. Bonnycastle, R.E., with additions by Sir James Edward Alexander, K.L.S., &c. Colburn and Co.

THE subject of this work is more definite than its comprehensive title would lead us to expect. If the commercial man or the emigrant is disappointed, the general reader will perhaps be more pleased to learn that Sir Richard Bonnycastle's book is, as his preface explains, a personal narrative, combined with a military and political examination of the Canadas, "a story of recent events, with a glance at the future, and a few sketches of the earlier history." The bulk of the book is in fact a narrative of the Rebellion in 1837, with notices of the disturbances in the two succeeding years. The author resided in Canada from the autumn of 1826 to the winter of 1839, and again from 1843 to 1847, and had many opportunities of being conversant with Canadian affairs. After a preliminary

sketch of the history of the Upper and Lower Provinces previous to 1837, a statement is given of the political and military condition of both the Canadas at that time, and then the narrative follows of the outbreak by the colonists, and the proceedings of the American sympathizers. A connected and graphic account is given of events which at the time caused no little commotion, and of persons whose names were then too familiar on this side the Atlantic. Of Papineau, Mackenzie, Nelson, Bill Johnson, and the other revolutionary leaders; of the occupation of Navy Island by the rebels and their American allies; the cutting-out the pirate steamer *Caroline*, which was set on fire and sent blazing over the Falls; the trial of M'Leod, and the war feeling smouldering for years after, and the many stirring incidents of those times, an animated description is given. From the chapter on 'the projected capture of Kingston' by the Americans, a few sentences will show the manner in which the gallant author narrates scenes in which he took personal share:—

"The town of Kingston, before the 22nd of February,—the day appointed for the attack,—was filled with strangers; and such was the excitement caused, that everybody remained awake that night. I was snatching a slight refreshment at dinner, just as the dark of evening set in, when a sergeant of the Marine Artillery rushed in, and in haste informed me that the Eastern attack had commenced, and that the rebels were in sight. My house, being separated from the town, was guarded by a party of sailors; and, after confiding everything dear to me to their charge, and desiring them, in the event of the worst, to retire through the garden to the block-house near us, I put on my sword and ran down to the Artillery Barracks, between my house and the town, giving directions to a picket of Marine Artillery by the way, and then hastily visited the Commandant, who directed me to shut the Artillery gates, and desire his little guard of a dozen men to defend them until the Militia could reinforce it.

"On my way through the town, all was alarm and anxiety; and, after reaching the Tête de Pont Barrack, and calling out the excellent First Frontenac Regiment, we prepared for the worst. The alarm was, however, premature, and I had time to issue the necessary orders; to strengthen the cavalry pickets; to send out parties; to place all the steam-boats at the wharfs in security; and to march to the threatened points. Never was such a night known in Kingston. Not a soul slept; fire and sword were momentarily looked for.

"We had received, through the Magistrates and secret sources, accurate intelligence of the foe. Within and without, every avenue was guarded; and the Commandant, the excellent and lamented Lieutenant-Colonel Cubitt, of the Royal Artillery, suffering under a distressing internal complaint, which soon afterwards destroyed him, shut himself with the picked men of the Militia in Fort Henry, and took such means, even if we were defeated, as to ensure that vital point.

"To paralyze the sympathizers in the inns and lodging-houses, who, I feared, would set fire to the town, and distract our attention, I took a strong guard of Militia, visited every suspected house before midnight, and, upon pain of death, forbade the inmates to leave their abodes. In one house alone, I knew there were from forty to fifty Americans, well armed. Constant alarms prevailed throughout the night, which was one of the most severely and intensely cold of the whole winter (27 degrees below zero); but, from the precautions adopted, and our well-disciplined force, the brigands were afraid to venture farther than Hickory Island, where they ensconced themselves; whilst, on Grindstone Island, and at French Creek, they were strongly supported.

"We had dispatched the Belleville Riflemen (a corps of young gentlemen), and a strong force of Indian warriors, to reinforce Gananoque, under

Major Fitzgerald, Town-major of Kingston, an old and experienced officer; and such were his efficient measures, that on the first token of advance towards Hickory Island, the Patriots fled, leaving behind them some stores and ammunition. Van Rensselaer, Bill Johnson, and Mr. Wells, a Member of the Upper Canada Parliament, narrowly escaped. The arms were rifles, muskets, and fowling-pieces, and the cannon were to be served with a murderous selection of broken pieces of iron, double-headed shot, &c.; many of which implements came into my possession."

Several incidents are mentioned, in order to show the temper of the militia, among which was the following amusing explosion of zeal:—

"An alarm occurred during the night, which rendered it necessary for me to order the men who had remained clothed and armed in their barracks upon parade. I ordered them, by lantern-light, to load, and made a short speech, telling them the time was come. One man in the front rank, as I was speaking, discharged his musket in my face, and was immediately taken to the guard-room by his indignant comrades. After everything was settled, I went to him, and having asked him what were his motives,—'By jakers!' says the honest Hibernian, 'Colonel, I was full of fight, and could not help it.' And so it was; for I knew him well, and am certain that nothing but his overflowing honest enthusiasm caused the accident."

Now that Canada is a united country, and when old animosities are disappearing, and hopes are realised of peaceful progress, under constitutional government, there is little satisfaction in recurring to the troubled and perplexed politics of other days. We must refer to the book for an account of them. Much of the feeling which led to the outbreak of 1837 still remains, and party spirit runs high, and there are in Canada national and religious causes of division, besides the usual subjects of colonial controversy and grievance, but on the whole the political prospects of the province are cheering:—

"The majority of the British settlers are devotedly loyal; the French are, we trust, also disposed to honour the Crown, and they dislike their neighbours too much to render it probable that they will ever sincerely join them. The Queen has declared that her whole power shall uphold the connexion with England, and therefore all that is wanted is firmness and impartiality in the making of that power felt.

"The future of Canada is bright, and the general polity of the colonial empire is now so clearly marked, that Canada will neither 'be lost nor given away,' and every friend to Britain looks anxiously to a permanently settled system of emigration thither, on a large and well-conducted scale; for as it must remain, and will be essentially a British province, the central dominion of English laws and English feeling in North America, the day will come, in the ripeness of time, when the five provinces will form one great whole, with Quebec for the metropolis, of a country which must extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and control the destinies of one grand and powerful division of the Anglo-Saxon race."

In these days of Atlantic steam navigation old accounts of speedy voyages excite little attention, yet the following specimen of soldier-like celerity (*celeriter* is Cæsar's word, occurring in almost every page of his personal narrative) is worthy of being recorded as belonging to the year 1837:—

"Having public and private business to transact in England at this period, I left Toronto on the 27th of May, and proceeding across Lake Ontario in a huge steamboat, landed at Oswego, and went by the Erie Canal to Utica, took the railroad to Albany, and thence by the Hudson in a steamboat to New York, where finding the *Mediator* packet-ship ready for sea, I embarked, and reached Ports-

mouth on the 19th of June, and travelling on to London, arrived there and delivered my dispatches at the Colonial-office on the morning of the 28th, whilst the proclamation of her Majesty's accession to the throne was going on at Charing-cross.

"I mention this to show the speed with which communication was kept up before the introduction of a regular line of steamers across the Atlantic. The distance from Toronto to New York could not be less than 650 miles, and from Portsmouth to London is 72; so that including the sail across the broadest part of the Atlantic and up the English Channel, my voyages occupied only nineteen days; and after remaining five weeks in London, I returned with dispatches for Lord Gosford and Sir Francis Head, reaching Toronto again on the 30th of August, four days within three months, by the very same packet-ship."

Although the work chiefly consists of a narrative of political and military events, there are many important facts and reflections in the concluding chapters as to the present condition and probable destinies of Canada. The capabilities of the country are clearly stated, and the best plans for the improvement of the province are pointed out. To the political economist or the mercantile reader several statistical tables and official returns will be found of importance. On questions of colonial polity there is always room for great diversity of opinion, but the views of such men as Colonel Bonnycastle, and of his editor and annotator, Sir J. E. Alexander, are worthy of careful consideration.

The principles of the book are strictly 'conservative,' and if there is any bias observable in the treatment of colonial discussions, it leans to the virtuous side of 'loyalty,' the welfare of Canada being regarded as always subservient to that of the mother country. The province is, indeed, often spoken of as 'Transatlantic Britain.'

Sir Richard Bonnycastle, son of the well-known mathematical professor at Woolwich, has already by his work on 'Canada in 1841 and 1846,' as well as by his long and efficient services, made his name associated with the history of the colony. At his death, in 1848, he left the manuscripts which are now arranged for publication by Sir James E. Alexander. Of the literary merit of posthumous works it is not usual to speak with the same criticism exercised on books published with an author's revision. But in general the reader will be pleased with the style as well as with the subjects of these volumes, which contain one of the best accounts we have of the recent history and political state of our Canadian colonies.

Austria in 1848—49, being a History of the late Political Movements in Vienna, Milan, Venice, and Prague, and a full account of the Revolution in Hungary. By William H. Stiles. 2 vols. Low.

The bulk of this book being directly political in its nature, and bearing on questions admitting of difference of opinion, we refrain from noticing it at the length which the importance of the subject and the authority of the author might otherwise have demanded. To any literary excellence the work does not lay claim, but asserts its true value as a faithful and elaborate record of events which have occurred in our own day, and which may be the materials of future history. Mr. Stiles held the office of representative of the United States of America at Vienna throughout the revolutionary era, and had every opportunity of knowing the origin and watching the pro-

gress of the political movements. He embraced the means which his official position afforded of collecting documents from all sources to illustrate the general history of the time. Adding to this his personal observation, and the private communications of correspondents, as well as the use of public records, he collected a complete narrative of the civil movements and military campaigns in Lombardy, Piedmont, and Hungary. In the political questions of the day, it is easy to know what would be the feelings of an intelligent American citizen—hatred of despotism on the one hand, and of anarchy on the other. In this spirit he witnessed and has recorded his observations, amply fulfilling, so far as impartiality and moderation are concerned, the purpose avowed in his preface:—

"No partisan spirit has dictated the views advanced; while, as an American, he could not be indifferent, first, to the joyful burst of acclamation which hailed the advent of an era of liberty, nor, afterward, to the mournful fate to which the constitutional system in Austria seemed doomed; yet, taught by the duties of his position to regard the momentous events which transpired in such rapid succession around him with the calm reflection which should characterize official station, he has been guided by the same impartial spirit in recounting them."

The First Book contains an Historical Introduction, giving an account of the Austrian Empire and its several provinces, and a view of the foreign policy and internal administration of the State from the Treaty of Vienna in 1815 to the Revolution of March 1848. The Second Book presents in chronological order the events of the Revolution, from the first triumph of the people, the fall of Metternich, and flight of the Emperor, down to the final restoration of military authority under Windischgrätz, after the second *émeute* of October. The historical narrative closes with several chapters detailing the scenes of the various wars in Hungary and in Lombardy. To these historical parts of the book we do not refer further than to say, that those whose only ideas hitherto of the Austrian revolutionary wars have been derived from the columns of "our own correspondents" of the London journals, or from the personal narratives of some of the military actors, will learn much of the real truth of the case from the clear and candid account of this American writer.

The spirit of the author, and the literary character of his style, will be gathered from a single extract, in which European and American revolutions are contrasted:—

"Not only was the change too sudden a one, but the people themselves were not adapted for it, either in education or habit. A population thus place-ridden and police-governed, where the people were looked upon as an animal mass, created for the will and pleasure of the state, it may readily be conceived, was totally unfitted for self-government. In our ardent enthusiasm in the cause of liberty, we are apt, in the United States, to assimilate the late revolutions in Europe with our own struggle for independence, and to think that there, as with us, it is only necessary to throw off the yoke of the tyrant, and the people would be found perfectly prepared for the enjoyment of all the rights of freedom; but a greater error never was committed. Such opinions are held by persons who forget that our ancestors sprang from the most free country in the world—a country that had existed for near two centuries under a Constitution guaranteeing to them the *Habeas Corpus*, trial by jury, and all the other essential elements of freedom."

"Civil independence was as truly the object of

our ancestors in emigrating to America as religious liberty. At any rate, that the one was considered the essential means of securing the other, was evident from the fact that, in the early charters which they brought with them, for the original government of the colonies, *independence* was most dexterously grafted. It can, then, be easily conceived that, with a people thus accustomed to the enjoyment of liberty—thus familiar with all the rights of man—it was only necessary to throw off the yoke of Great Britain, and they were quite prepared for the enjoyment of rational liberty, quite able to undertake the difficult task of self-government. But how widely different is the situation of the unfortunate people in Europe who have always existed under the iron sceptre of despotism; where the only law is the tyrant's will; where the education of the people, so far as they enjoyed any instruction at all, was so carefully guarded by the government, that not one ray of liberty ever penetrated their benighted minds; where they could not even define the word; and where their only conception of it was *licentiousness*, or the freedom to do anything and everything which inclination or interest might dictate.

"One of the most talented of the Radical leaders in Vienna—one who afterwards paid the forfeit of his life for the extravagance of his opinions—said to the author: 'We wish no such republic as you have in the United States; we wish something original; we wish a government where there shall not only be an equality of rights and of rank, but an equality of property, and an equality of everything.' Another influential Radical, one of the celebrated Council of Fifty-two, to whom, for a season, was committed all the affairs of the German Confederation, remarked to the same gentleman, 'Sir, the only course left to us is, to raise the guillotine, and to keep it in constant and active operation; our only watchword should be, *Blood! blood! blood!* and the more blood that flows the sooner shall we attain our liberties!'

"And that such ideas were not confined to words, the brutal murders of Prince Lichnowsky and Count Auerswald, at Frankfurt; Count Latour, at Vienna; Count Lamburg, at Pesth; and Count Rossi, at Rome, will attest. Such atrocities were uncalled for, unsuited to the cause, and destructive of the very ends they were intended to accomplish. How different was the conduct of the people of the United States when placed under similar circumstances! When the English colonies in America declared their independence of the mother-country, and dissolved 'all connexion between them and the crown of Great Britain,' there were royal governors presiding, 'in the name and by the authority' of the King of England, over each of the colonies. Were these mercenaries of a sovereign—these instruments of royalty—brutally murdered? their bodies hung up to lamp-posts, or dragged, perhaps, through the streets of a capital? Was even a hair of their heads touched? No! they were suffered to depart in peace; they were considered but the minions of power; and had the Americans descended so far as to soil their hands in their blood, it might not only have defeated the ends at which they aimed, but would have proved them unworthy of the blessing to which they aspired."

The reflections of Mr. Stiles as to the results of these abortive revolutions of the last few years are remarkably just and sensible. He shows that all wise and educated people will, *ceteris paribus*, prefer a free to a despotic government; but the worst theoretic government, which secures public order and safety to person and property, will ever be preferred to the best theoretic government which endangers them.

"The majority of the sober and influential classes of the country will always be on the side of that party which best understands the *practical art of administration*, however defective or erroneous may be its fundamental principles, however medicinal may be its name."

Mr. Stiles gives a most imposing array of titles of published and unpublished sources whence the materials of his work have been derived. To some sources of information not previously available he has had access, and great diligence is displayed in the use of all the documents within his reach. The rich abundance of his matter has probably been adverse to display of literary ability in the composition of the book, but has increased its historical value. In the Appendix a large number of official documents are collected, some of them of permanent statistical importance. The correspondence between the author and Kossuth will be read with interest. The book is embellished with portraits of the Emperor, Metternich, Radetzky, Jellachich, and Kossuth.

The Poetical Works of James Russell Lowell.
Edited, with an Introduction, by Andrew R. Scoble. Routledge & Co.

IN a series of the works of American poets, which has already presented Longfellow, Bryant, Sigourney, and other names of established fame, there now appears the poetry of James Russell Lowell, a writer little known as yet on this side of the Atlantic. The editor, who has undertaken to introduce him to the British public, assures us that in the United States his reputation is deservedly great, and that this book may be commended as "one of the most vigorous productions of American genius." He speaks of the "swift movement of Mr. Lowell's verses, and the daring energy of his conceptions," and tells how this "master of all the chords of the lyre strikes them with a bold and impetuous hand, till they ring out in loud but harmonious concert." From such a friend as Mr. Scoble, the young American author might well say "save me." Such injudicious praise only tends to damage the subject of it. But we are so accustomed to the indiscretions and faults of prefaces and introductions, that we do not allow the sound of Mr. Scoble's boisterous horn to interfere with our quiet hearing and calm judging of what music or merit there is in Mr. Lowell's poetry.

The author is young, not much above thirty, and many of the pieces are dated ten years back; so that allowance must be made for youth and inexperience. Those poems which have no date we presume are the more mature and finished performances of the writer, and as such are most fairly open to criticism. The only remark worth making as to the youth of the author is, that he has written far too much in so short a time. To write three hundred and thirty-three pages of poetry in the course of a few years, is a feat of agility that excites surprise, but a fact in itself sufficient to prove the want of the good taste and good sense which are as essential as genius to the production of works of lasting renown. Mr. Lowell was educated at Harvard university, where, no doubt, he read Horace's 'Art of Poetry,' some of the simple maxims of which are as applicable to modern as to ancient times, and to American as well as to classic genius. The passages to which we refer are too common-place for quotation; but we wish some benevolent author would compile from Horace and Pope, and other well-known authorities of poetical criticism, a few 'Hints to Young Poets.' The study of such a little manual might save authors from many careless blunders, and critics from much needless trouble.

Defects of taste and skill can be remedied; absence of genius or power in a poet are fatal to his claim of being more than a mere versifier. Mr. Lowell has both the fire and force of true poetry in him, and therefore, in spite of many defects, he is worth our bestowing on him the critical notice which writers with fewer faults, but fewer merits, do not obtain. The very first lines of the first piece, 'The Vision of Sir Launfal,' are a pleasing prelude to fine harmony occasionally throughout the book, the recurrence of which at intervals makes the more marked the long passages of weak or discordant verse:—

"Over his keys the musing organist,
Beginning doubtfully and far away,
First lets his fingers wander as they list,
And builds a bridge from Dreamland for his lay:
Then, as the touch of his loved instrument
Gives hope and fervor, nearer draws his theme,
First guessed by faint auroral flushes sent
Along the wavering vista of his dream."

From a piece 'On the Capture of certain Fugitive Slaves near Washington,' we give some stanzas, which show vigorous thought and a noble spirit, in which the roughness of a few of the lines is easily overlooked. The verses have greater point from the controversies in the United States on the Fugitive Slave Act:—

"We owe allegiance to the State; but deeper, truer, more,
To the sympathies that God hath set within our spirit's
core:—

Our country claims our fealty; we grant it so, but then
Before Man made us citizens, great Nature made us men.

He's true to God who's true to man; wherever wrong is
done,

To the humblest and the weakest, 'neath the all-beholding
sun,

That wrong is also done to us; and they are slaves most
base,

Whose love of right is for themselves, and not for all their
race.

God works for all. Ye cannot hem the hope of being free
With parallels of latitude, with mountain-range or sea.
Put golden padlocks on Truth's lips, be callous as ye will,
From soul to soul o'er all the world, leaps one electric
thrill.

Chain down your slaves with ignorance, ye cannot keep
apart,

With all your craft of tyranny, the human heart from
heart:

When first the Pilgrims landed on the Bay-State's iron
shore,

The word went forth that slavery should one day be no
more.

Out from the land of bondage 'tis decreed our slaves shall go,
And signs to us are offered, as erst to Pharaoh;
If we are blind, their exodus, like Israel's of yore,
Through a Red Sea is doomed to be, whose surges are of
gore.

'Tis ours to save our brethren, with peace and love to win
Their darkened hearts from error, ere they harden it to sin;
But if man before his duty with a listless spirit stands,
Ere long the Great Avenger takes the work from out his
hands."

There are other poems in which the same love of freedom burns, as in the odes to Kossuth and Lamartine, and the 'Thoughts on the present Crisis,' referring to American slavery. But the most pleasing parts of the volume are those of which love is the theme and the inspiration. Some of the sketches of female character are beautiful; the ideal portrait of Irene in particular is lovely in its moral features. In some of the sonnets, too, there are fine thoughts well expressed, as in that describing the increase of love after the loss of a child, beginning—

"I thought our love at full, but I did err;
Joy's wreath drooped o'er mine eyes; I could not see
That sorrow in our happy world must be
Love's deepest spokesman and interpreter;
But, as a mother feels her child first stir
Under her heart, so felt I instantly
Deep in my soul another bond to thee
Thrill with that life we saw depart from her."

We only add one sonnet, characteristic of the author's sentiments and style:—

"There never yet was flower fair in vain,
Let classic poets rhyme it as they will;
The seasons toil that it may blow again,
And summer's heart doth feel its every ill;

Nor is a true soul ever born for naught;
Wherever any such hath lived and died,
There hath been something for true freedom wrought,
Some bulwark levelled on the evil side:
Toil on, then, Greatness! thou art in the right,
However narrow souls may call thee wrong;
Be as thou wouldst be in thine own clear sight,
And so thou wilt in all the world's ere long;
For worldlings cannot, struggle as they may,
From man's great soul one great thought hide away."

Admiring the high moral tone pervading Mr. Lowell's writings, and perceiving that he has true poetic spirit, we have refrained from dwelling on the many faults which he displays in common with most young authors. With less inflated thought, simpler language, and more condensed utterance, Mr. Lowell might take a high place among American poets.

Poetical Illustrations of the Achievements of the Duke of Wellington and his Companions in Arms. Edited by Major George Webb De Renzy. Sutherland and Knox.

MAJOR DE RENZY is a veteran soldier of the Peninsular army, formerly in H.M. Eighty-second Regiment, now barrack-master at Dundee. In his post of honourable retirement and comparative leisure, the gallant major bethought himself of celebrating the praises of his great captain, the Duke of Wellington, and his companions in arms. A history, even if he had genius and materials for such an undertaking, would have been superfluous after the labours of Napier and other military historians. But the muse of poetry is open to the invocation of more numerous admirers, and therefore Major De Renzy projected a work, in which might be presented a series of poetical illustrations of the personages and events of the last great war. To write an epic of these times would require another Homer, in despair of whom, a collection of lyrics by various authors might do something to render illustrious the military heroes of England. The conception was good, and was carried out by its leal and generous originator with energy and enthusiasm. Obtaining leave from some writers to adopt their previously published poems, applying to others to contribute original pieces, and offering prizes by public advertisements to those who would most fitly and heroically sing the exploits of his countrymen and companions in arms, the materials were gradually obtained for the large and curious volume which now appears; "the long delay in the publication of which has enabled the editor to bestow all the pains and attention on its improvement and completeness that a work of such magnitude and importance indispensably required."

"The work is designed to supply a connected and consecutive outline of the battles, sieges, scenes, and feats of chivalry as they occurred throughout the ever-memorable and brilliant campaigns of Wellington. The whole progress of the Peninsular war was especially marked by innumerable deeds of enterprise, incident, and adventure; of courage and daring admirably fitted for poetic illustration; and it occurred to the projector and compiler of this work, that a record of the achievements of the Duke of Wellington, and his brave companions in arms, in a series of pieces, lyrical and otherwise, from the pens of some of the eminent writers of the day, and on a plan peculiarly and entirely his own, would form a truly national work, worthy of public approbation, and of the fame and deeds of those gallant heroes, to whose valour England is indebted for so many victories, and so much renown."

The conception of such a work was an excellent one, and a noble volume of Epini-

can odes might have been the result, had the editor and his literary advisers possessed judgment and taste corresponding to their zeal, loyalty, and patriotism. As it is, the book is more remarkable for the number and variety than for the merit of its contents. There are, indeed, in the collection some right noble poems, such as Wilson Croker's ode on "The Battle of Talavera," and Wolfe's immortal lines on "The Burial of Sir John Moore." Some of Martin Tupper's war-ballads also deserve to be honourably specified. But Major De Renzy has erred in admitting alongside of these poems many miserable pieces, the only use of which is to keep up the continuity of the narrative without gaps of too great duration. One reverend poetaster, for instance, contributes an ode on "The Magic Words—Up, Guards, and at them," which commences with—

"Long may Bellona's fiery car," &c.;

and thus concludes:—

"Words, than the Gallic blades more keen,
More trenchant than th' electric sheen,
The thrilling words of June Eighteen—
Up, Guards, and at them!"

Another bard, bearing the poetic name of Thompson, commences a magniloquent array of stanzas thus:—

"In Britain's legislative hall,
Enriched by Art's heraldic sheen,
At honour's and at duty's call,
Britannia's noblest sons are seen."

The poem refers to the presence of the Duke of Wellington at the closing of the Parliament in August, 1851. The closing couplet, however, redeems Mr. Thompson from absolute reprobation, when he apostrophises the hero as—

"A HECTOR in the ranks of war;
A NESTOR in the halls of peace!"

But while we make this general criticism as to the merit of some of the pieces, and regret that greater judgment had not been used in the selection, and still more in the rejection of poems, we must speak with high commendation of the volume as a contribution to historical literature. There are upwards of a hundred and fifty poems, some of them by authors of classic fame, the greater number written with force and spirit, and all without exception bearing upon the great subject which the editor sought to illustrate. He would have done well, in places where metrical pieces of inferior merit alone offered themselves, to have filled up the gaps with his own good prose. The short prefatory notes and connecting narratives are written with much ability and good feeling; and the sketch of the character of Wellington, at the close of the volume, is one the truth and beauty of which every reader will appreciate, ending thus:—

"As a warrior he was great;—great in simplicity of purpose and unselfishness;—great in a stern sense of duty; great in obedience, as in command; great in loyalty to his sovereign, and in zeal for his country; great, in that with means so small he wrought deeds so mighty, or that, with means so vast, he secured so little to himself. And now he is great in peace, with his white reverend head bent in adoration in the house of prayer, when others are in sleep and sloth; great in the singleness of his heart; great in his benevolence, in dispensing of those good things so liberally to others, which his country hath so deservedly bestowed on him, as a mark of its respect, its gratitude, and its love."

We ought in fairness to Major De Renzy to add, that he was aided and influenced in the selection of the materials placed at his disposal by a literary friend, the Rev. J.

Torry Anderson, who has displayed more ability in his own contributions than judgment in his estimate of those of others.

NOTICES.

A Collection of Rounds and Catches, for the use of Schools, Families, and Choral Societies. By the Editor of the 'Young Singer's Book of Songs.' Longmans.

WE hardly know whether to notice this little book under the head of Literature or of Music, the words and melodies being alike full of historic interest. In the charming paper on Music in a recent 'Quarterly Review' (reprinted in Murray's 'Reading for the Rail') the accomplished writer, speaking of Rounds and Catches, says, "It is pleasant to turn over the leaves of such an old collection, and muse on their words of deep significance. There is a regular declaration of English rights and principles in them, with their sound piety, broad fun, perfect liberty of speech, and capital eating and drinking. * * * Nor must we overlook the reason which made this species of music popular among our forefathers, and we trust will keep it so among our descendants. It agreed with the domestic habits which have ever characterised old England. It suited best that best of all clubs—a large family party; it was welcome to that best of all earthly abodes—a good old country-house. Father and mother, brothers and sisters, could all take a part in this domestic chorus; and on joyous occasions, when sons returned to the paternal mansion, and married daughters met again beneath the roof from which they had gone forth, the old gleebok was pulled out and spread upon their knees, and long separated voices mingling again, both age and youth have felt that there was something in such music which 'linked each to each in natural piety.'" We prefer quoting these excellent and apposite remarks to making any observations of our own, and merely commend this little book as containing a well-selected and arranged set of the oldest and best English rounds and catches, especially suited for the instruction of the young, and introductory to large collections.

The Dramatic Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Edited by Derwent Coleridge. New Edition. Moxon.

A COMPANION volume to that recently published, the collected edition of Coleridge's 'Poems' (*ante*, p. 512), and brought out in the same style which merited our praise on that occasion. Coleridge's dramatic works, including the translation of the 'Wallenstein' of Schiller, are now for the first time published in a collected form. In a prefatory notice, the editor gives an historical narrative of the chief matters of public interest connected with the several pieces; recording, for instance, how 'Remorse' (first entitled 'Osorio') was written for the stage when the author was in his twenty-fifth year, at the instigation of Mr. Sheridan, who, however, judged it unsuitable for that purpose; and how at Drury Lane, in 1813, it was produced under the auspices of Lord Byron and Mr. Whitbread, and after a run of twenty nights passed from the public stage to be admired in the solitary study. The history of 'Zapolya' is somewhat similar, popular opinion unanimously endorsing the early judgment of its being 'beautiful, but impracticable.' Of 'Wallenstein' it would be out of place now to say anything in way of comment or criticism. The editor has collected some of the most striking *dicta* of literary contemporaries as to the merit of the work. These of course present the most favourable view of Coleridge's success in the translation. Carlyle has pronounced it to be, "with the exception of Sotheby's 'Oberon,' the best, indeed the only sufferable translation from the German with which our literature had then been enriched." Sir Walter Scott's citation of twenty lines in 'Guy Mannering,' with a tribute of admiration, was the highest public testimony which the poem could receive. A note is also now for the first time printed from a MS. journal, in which Wordsworth writes as follows to Captain

Robertson, who had consulted him about a translation of Tasso,—“Coleridge's translation of 'Wallenstein' is perhaps the best model translation in the English language. It is in many places better than the original. The metre is better.” The plays have been reprinted from the first edition, with the original stage-directions and notes, the omission of which in later editions, the editor observes, has led to some misapprehension, and has been no improvement. A note in the Appendix contains an ably-written reply, by the late accomplished Mrs. H. N. Coleridge, the poet's sister, to some strictures on the 'Wallenstein' which appeared about a year and a half ago in the 'Westminster Review.'

Report of the Aeronomic Association; being an Explanatory Statement of the principles of removing all hindrances to Smoke-ascension. Varnham.

SMOKY chimneys are not the least of the many 'miseries of life,' and the cure of them comes near to the fireside comforts of our English homes. Health as well as comfort is involved in the right arrangement of the only aperture by which through a large portion of the year our rooms are ventilated. In summer, ventilation is easily managed, but how to secure fresh air without losing genial warmth is a more troublesome problem during the winter months. Add to the unwholesome atmosphere of smoky rooms the ungainly sight of most London chimneys externally, and the fantastic and often dangerous appendages erected on high to mitigate an evil which a little ingenuity and care in the internal construction would thoroughly prevent. So long ago as 1826 we noticed in this journal a work by Mr. J. W. Hiort, entitled a 'Practical Treatise on the Construction of Chimneys,' in which very plain and sensible directions were given for the prevention of smoke annoyance, and the obtaining healthy ventilation in rooms. The plan was patented, and was introduced at St. James's Palace, the Custom House, St. Catherine's Hospital, Regent's Park, and many public buildings and private mansions. But architects and builders are slow to adopt improvements, and the expense of the suggested arrangement being objectionable, the old routine bricklayer's way of making chimneys has been continued. Arrangements are now, however, made, by which Hiort's patent 'air-conductors' or 'terminal smoke-vents' can be applied at very small expense; and the present Report describes the principles of an invention so much affecting domestic comfort, health, and safety. Architects, builders, and owners of houses ought to know the contents of the volume, which also contains matters interesting and amusing to the general reader. Some of the passages are not without historical value, as illustrating the domestic habits and even the public scenes of English life. For instance, we read of the ventilation of Old St. Stephen's in the time of Pitt and Fox and Sheridan; how, "late in a debate in the summer season, a voice might sometimes be heard from the body of the house, vociferating 'Work the ventilator!' and this was echoed and repeated until heard by the man at the windlass, who by redoubled efforts, quickening the action of the sails, caused a more forcible emission of the heated mephitic air through the aperture of the ceiling." However much the ventilation of public buildings may have improved under the auspices of Dr. Æolus Reid, it seems from this report that London is not improving in the matter of smoke prevention. Smoky chimneys were then rare compared with now. Reasons are given for this, and remedies described in the Report of the Aeronomic Association.

Historical Sketch of the Electric Telegraph. By Alexander Jones. New York: Putnam.

OF the literary character of this work we cannot say much, after the apology offered by the author in his preface, on the ground of its being prepared under many disadvantages. But its value as a record of historical and statistical facts on all electro-telegraphic matters is at once apparent. With great minuteness every step in the wonderful invention is traced, and the successive improve-

ments in every department are described. The book commences with a chronological statement of discoveries relating to the electric telegraph, followed by explanation of terms and description of instruments and apparatus. In the statistical part of the volume the largest portion naturally relates to the lines of the United States, the account of which will be received with much interest in this country. Of some inventions, such as House's printing telegraph, little has been heard hitherto in this country. Of this and other American inventions Mr. Jones gives full descriptions. Some of his own suggestions as to the future applications of electric telegraphs are novel and ingenious, as when he proposes the use of electro-magnetic locks, which might, moreover, be connected with any apartment where it might be desirable to communicate an alarm in case of their being attempted. But the chief value of the work in this country will be found in its copious statistical information, few facts relating to the progress or present state of telegraphic communication escaping full treatment by the painstaking compiler.

SUMMARY.

THE fifth volume of the beautiful *Library edition of the Waverley Novels*, containing *Old Mortality*, is this month issued by the Messrs. Black of Edinburgh. This edition, in demy 8vo, uniform with the standard English authors, will be complete in twenty-five volumes. The other promised editions of Sir Walter Scott's works are publishing at intervals by the new holders of the copyright.

A *Treatise on Investments*, by Robert Arthur Ward, Solicitor, gives a popular exposition of the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of investment of money, and of its liability to depreciation and loss. Plain and practical directions, as free as possible from technical phraseology, are laid down for the guidance of capitalists. To those who wish to use their money to the best advantage, without the intervention of legal advice, Mr. Ward's book supplies full and satisfactory information. At the same time, although popular in style, the correctness of its statements renders it useful as a book of reference to professional lawyers or official advisers. The first edition was most favourably received by the public; and the second, which has soon been required, merits wider favour. Much additional matter has been inserted, and entirely new chapters have been added on the consequences of the gold discoveries on the value of property, joint stock undertakings, building societies, turnpike bonds, mining speculations, and railway shares. On writing the chapter on railways the author has received the friendly aid of Mr. Herapath, and on mines, of Mr. Crowe. There are few readers to whom some parts of the volume will not prove interesting or useful.

A cheap weekly series of papers, under the title of *Wonderful Things*, presents a miscellany of curious reading, generally of an instructive as well as an amusing nature. For instance, one of the last numbers contains a description of many natural bridges, followed by an account of the most remarkable bridges of human construction, including the Britannia tubular bridge,—the Nineveh marbles, palm trees, and the American prairies, making up the diversified contents. The volume when completed will be a capital book for juvenile reading, similar to the 'Wonders of the World' and 'Wonders of Nature and Art,' and other such works, which we remember in our boyish days.

Tourists in the sister island will find in a little tract of thirty pages, *Connemara, and the Irish Highlands*, a very useful guide to the localities most worthy of being visited in the far west. From Dublin to Galway by rail, and thence to Maam, the traveller gets in twelve hours into the centre of the scenery here described. This wild district, till lately little known even to the Irish of the other provinces, is opening, fast to the enterprise of more civilized regions.

The appearance of a new edition, the fourth, of *Initia Latina*, a guide to Latin for beginners, by the Rev. J. Edwards, M.A., one of the masters of

King's College School, London, and the Rev. W. Cross, M.A., justifies the recommendation of it as an excellent school-book. The peculiar merit of the book lies in the clear and judicious arrangement of the Syntax, the matter of which is presented in successive stages, by which the pupil is led gradually into intelligent knowledge of the rules and examples. The vocabularies, exercises, and questions for examination, will be found of much use for facility of tuition and of study.

The third volume of *Michaud's History of the Crusades*, translated by W. Robson, concludes Routledge's edition of this standard work, which we have already noticed on the appearance of the previous volumes. Notes by the translator, the appendix, and a copious index, increase the value of the work.

Englishmen speaking French, even after long habit, are apt to commit errors, chiefly idiomatic, some of them natural enough, but to native or well-educated ears very ridiculous. The usual blunder is to render too literally into corresponding French words. Mdlle. D. G., the compiler of a useful little manual, *Le Censeur*, gives in parallel columns a copious list of phrases apt to be said, and the corresponding phrases which ought to be said. Thus, "Be good young ladies," ne dites pas, *Soyez bonnes mesdemoiselles*, mais dites, *Soyez sages*; "Comment aimez-vous cela," comment trouvez-vous cela? It will be found a very useful monitor, even by those who think themselves good French scholars.

Of some miscellaneous pamphlets and minor publications we can give little more than the titles; *A Letter on the Buxton Tepid Springs*, addressed to Dr. Lyon Playfair by W. H. Robertson, M.D., Senior Physician to the Buxton Bath Charity, contains a medical commentary on the chemical analysis of the water, and an account of recent improvements in the town. A letter to the Lord-Lieutenant Eglington, by a quondam Ulster farmer, *Ireland, some of its Evils and some of its Remedies*, is written in violent spirit and bad taste, whatever truth there may be in the political statements of the writer. Bad grammar and bad spelling deface many of the pages. The author talks of *peccadillos*, of an unlucky *looser*, and of his *calumniously* accused friend! Yet the letter is worth reading as from one who knows about what he is writing.

Two small works, *Practical Experience at the Gold Diggings in Victoria*, by William H. Hall, and *The Colonies of Australia*, by John Fairfax, one of the editors of the 'Sydney Morning Herald,' are full of valuable information on Australian affairs, and contain important advice to emigrants, whether bound for the "diggings," or for other colonial pursuits. Mr. Hall speaks from fourteen years' knowledge of the country, and Mr. Fairfax has also had abundant opportunity of personal observation of what he now ably reports. Another Australian journalist, whose name is not given, also publishes a guide for emigrants, entitled *Gleanings from the Gold Fields*, the descriptive part of the book being illustrated by woodcuts and four maps. All these are cheap tracts, and ought to be procured by those desiring information about the colony.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Burritt's (Elihu) Works, new edition, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Copley's Cottage Comforts, 21st edition, 12mo, 2s. 6d.
Finlayson's Collection of Anthems, 12mo, cloth, 5s.
Galignani's New Paris Guide for 1852, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Horsford's Four Months in England, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Hood's (E. P.) Dream Land and Ghost Land, 12mo, 1s. 6d.
Kingsley's Village Sermons, 2nd edition, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
Mill's (J. S.) Political Economy, 2 vols. 8vo, cloth, £1 10s.
Merivale's Cui Sallustii Crispi Catilina et Jugurtha, 5s.
Napoleon the Little, by Victor Hugo, 8vo, 2s. 6d.
Reports on Subjects in the Classes of the Exhibition, £1 1s.
Showell's Tradesman's Calculator, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
Schmid's One Hundred German Tales, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
Simon's Mission and Martyrdom of St. Peter, 8vo, 7s.
White's Elementary Atlas of Modern Geography, 2s. 6d.
Williams's Cottage Bible, 3 vols. 8vo, cloth, £1 4s.
Waring's (A. L.) Hymns and Meditations, 18mo, 1s. 6d.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

Belfast, September 8, 1852.

THE British Association has decidedly gained in strength by its meeting at Belfast. Owing to the interposition of two seas between Ireland and the Continent, there have been fewer foreign visitors; but the scientific men of the United Kingdom—English, Scotch, and Irish, have met cordially together, and their communications have been both numerous and important. Add to this, an interest on the part of the local inhabitants which has not been surpassed on any former occasion. The most generous hospitality has been exercised on all sides in the reception of visitors, and the charges at the hotels and lodging-houses have been extremely moderate. The number of members exceeded a thousand on the third day of the meeting, and upwards of a hundred were added since. When we state that this is more than twice the number that attended the meeting last year at Ipswich, it will readily be understood that so much larger an addition to the funds of the Association will add materially to its usefulness, while it has enabled the Council to increase the number of grants of money in aid of scientific researches.

The second meeting of the General Committee, which took place on Monday, was occupied with hearing the gentlemen deputed to invite the Association for future years. Invitations were received from Hull, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Brighton, and Dublin. The invitation from Hull having been urgently repeated for several years past, and a fund having been already formed in that town of nearly two thousand pounds, it was unanimously agreed that the Association should accept it for next year; and Mr. Hopkins, the eminent geologist, was elected President.

The concluding meeting of the General Committee was held on Wednesday, when the following recommendations were put:—

Reports and Researches not involving Grants of Money nor Application to Government.

That the thanks of the British Association be given to the Smithsonian Institution for the communication of charts illustrating the plan adopted by that institution for deducing the general facts of the meteorology of North America, bearing on the laws of the great North American storms, and that it be referred to the Council to consider what steps it may be advisable to take for the purpose of extending the system of observations over the British portions of North America.

That the thanks of the British Association be given to Professor Dove for his valuable communications respecting the lines of abnormal temperature on the globe, and that it be referred to the Council to consider of the expediency of procuring copies of the abnormal temperature in different months of the year for the supply of members of the Association.

That Mr. Sylvester be requested to draw up a complete report on the Theory of Determinants, to be laid before the next meeting of the Association.

That the Earl of Rosse, Dr. Robinson, and Professor Phillips be requested to draw up a Report on the physical character of the moon's surface as compared with that of the earth.

Communications to be Printed Entire.

That the Observations of mean daily temperature and fall of rain at 127 Stations of the Bengal Presidency, be printed at length in the next volume of 'Transactions.'

That Mr. James Thomson's paper on Vortex Water-Wheels be printed at length in the 'Transactions' of the Association.

Reports and Researches involving Grants of Money.

That the sum of 200*l.* be placed at the disposal of the Council for the maintenance of the establishment of the Observatory at Kew.

That Dr. Hodges be requested to investigate the chemical changes which are observed to occur in the technical preparation of flax, and that 20*l.* be placed at his disposal for the purpose.

That Mr. Robert Hunt and Dr. Gladstone be requested to continue their experiments on the influence of solar radiations on chemical combinations, electrical phenomena, and the vital powers of plants growing under different atmospheric conditions, with 15*l.* at their disposal for the purpose.

That Mr. Mallet be requested to continue his experiments on the propagation of earthquake waves, availing himself of the operations now carrying on at Holyhead, with 50*l.* at his disposal for that purpose.

That Dr. Lankester, Professor Owen, and Dr. Dickie, be a Committee to continue the superintendence of the publication of tabular forms in reference to periodical phenomena of animals and vegetables, with 10*l.* at their disposal for the purpose.

That Mr. H. E. Strickland, Dr. Lindley, and the other members of a Committee already named, be requested to continue their experiments on the vitality of seeds, with 5*l.* 10*s.* at their disposal for the purpose.

That Mr. R. Patterson, Dr. Dickie, Mr. Hyndman, and Mr. Grainger, be requested to carry out a system of dredging on the North and East coasts of Ireland, with 10*l.* at their disposal for the purpose.

That Mr. W. Thomson, Professor Balfour, Professor Goodsir, Mr. Peach, and Dr. Greville, be requested to carry out a system of dredging on the East coast of Scotland, with 15*l.* at their disposal.

That Professor E. Forbes and Professor T. Bell be requested to assist in the publication of the remaining part of Dr. Williams's Report on the Structure of the Annelida, with 10*l.* at their disposal for the purpose.

That the sum of 5*l.* be granted for defraying the expenses attending the distribution of a Manual of Ethnological Inquiry, prepared by Mr. Cull and a Sub-Committee appointed in 1851.

That a large outline map of the world be provided for the use of the geographers and ethnologists, and that Sir R. I. Murchison, the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, and the Secretaries of the Geographical and Ethnological Societies be a Committee for carrying this into effect, with 15*l.* at their disposal for the purpose.

Summary of Grants.

	£	s.	d.
Kew Observatory	200	0	0
Flax experiments	20	0	0
Solar radiations	15	0	0
Earthquake waves	50	0	0
Periodical phenomena	10	0	0
Vitality of seeds	5	10	0
Dredging coasts of Ireland	10	0	0
Dredging coasts of Scotland	15	0	0
Report on the Annelida	10	0	0
Ethnological queries	5	0	0
Map of the world	15	0	0
	£355	10	0

Recommendations not involving Money, but Applications to Government or public bodies.

That in order to meet the growing wants of science, and remedy, in some degree, the inconvenience caused to its cultivators by the dissipated, incomplete, and discontinuous publication of scientific researches, it is expedient that the British Association, which, by its constitution, includes representatives of the various scientific institutions of the empire, should propose such general views on the subject as may be suggested by the experience of its members.

That a Committee be formed for the purpose of considering of a plan by which the Transactions of different Scientific Societies may become part of one arranged system, and the records of facts and phenomena be rendered more complete, more continuous, and more convenient than at present.

That it be an instruction to this Committee to place itself in communication with the Council of the Royal Society, and the Councils of other Scientific Societies which receive scientific communications at regular meetings.

That the Committee consist of Prof. W. Thom-

son, Prof. Andrews, Leonard Horner, Prof. Owen, Sir R. I. Murchison, Col. Sykes, J. M. Rankine, J. C. Adams, Rev. Dr. Lloyd, Prof. Wilson (of Belfast), Rev. Dr. Robinson, Bell, Professor Graham, Grove, Sir D. Brewster, and *ex-officio* Officers, with power to add to their number.

That it is important to have a Quarterly Record of British and Foreign Scientific Publications and Discoveries, and that the consideration of the practicability of obtaining them be referred to the same Committee.

That a representation be made to the Royal Society of the importance attached by M. Otto Struve to the determination of the constant of "Irradiation" for the Huyghenian object-glass of 123 feet radius.

That it is expedient to proceed without delay with the establishment in the Southern Hemisphere of a Telescope not inferior in power to a three-foot reflector; and that the President, with the assistance of the following gentlemen—viz. the Earl of Rosse, Dr. Robinson, Lord Wrottesley, Mr. J. C. Adams, the Astronomer Royal, J. Nasmyth, Esq., W. Lassell, Esq., Sir D. Brewster, and E. J. Cooper, Esq., be requested to take such steps as they shall deem most desirable to carry out the preceding resolution.

That the publication of the reduction upon a scale of one inch to the mile of the Townland Survey of Ireland, ordered to be made in connexion with the Geological Survey by the Ordnance, and for which a vote was taken for 1852-53, upon the Estimates of that department, be recommended to the Government to be accelerated.

That the Council of the British Association be requested to continue their efforts to obtain the assistance of the Government for the publication of Mr. Huxley's researches.

That, with the view of obtaining an accurate knowledge of the countries on and near the Eastern coast of Africa, from the Red Sea to 10° South latitude, the very important products of which have been enumerated by the late Sir Charles Malcolm and Mr. D. Cooley, the British Association do call the attention of the Court of Directors of the Honourable the East India Company to the desirableness of sending an expedition thoroughly to explore that region, as recommended by the Royal Geographical Society of London. The deputation to consist of the President of the British Association and the President and Vice-Presidents of the Royal Geographical Society.

That most important meteorological data are attainable by balloon ascents, and that the Council be requested to solicit the co-operation of the Royal Society in this investigation.

That the Government be requested on the part of the British Association to connect with the survey of the Gulf Stream an examination of the zoology and botany of that current, and also of the temperature of the sea round the shores of the British Islands.

The Committee, having been informed that an expedition has been proposed for ascending the Niger to its source by Lieut. Lyon Macleod, R.N., and that it has been recommended to Her Majesty's Government by the Royal Geographical Society and the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester,—Resolve, that the President be requested to confer with the presidents of the Royal and Geographical Societies in bringing the subject before the Government.

The Committee having understood that Dr. Bakie, Mr. Arthur Adams, and Mr. W. T. Alexander, each of them in the medical branch of Her Majesty's navy, have offered to undertake a thorough exploration of the countries watered by the river Magdalena in South America, in respect to their botanical, zoological, and geological productions, on the condition of being allowed their full pay, request the President of the Association and Sir R. I. Murchison to urge the Government to accede to their proposition.

That a systematized collection of the agricultural statistics of Great Britain, of a similar nature with the returns of the agricultural produce of Ireland, prepared under the care of Major Larcom, R.E., is

a desideratum, and would be of great public utility, and that the President, Mr. Heywood, Major Larcom, and Colonel Sykes be requested to communicate the above resolution to Her Majesty's government.

The Committee being aware of the liberality with which the Master-General and Board of Ordnance have supplied the several engineer stations with instruments for meteorological observations, would suggest the advantage of adding to their instruments, in the Ionian Islands, others for measuring the direction and amount of earthquake vibrations, so frequent in these islands.

That it is important that Professor W. Thomson and Mr. J. P. Joule be enabled to make a series of experiments, on a large scale, on the thermal effects experienced by air in rushing through small apertures; and that a representation to this effect be made to the Royal Society.

That a Committee consisting of the Rev. Dr. Robinson, Professor C. P. Smythe, W. Fairbairn, Esq., W. J. M. Rankine, Esq., C.E., and W. S. Ward, Esq., be requested to take into consideration the method of cooling air for the ventilation of buildings in tropical climates by mechanical processes, and, should they see fit, to propose a memorial in the name of the British Association to the Hon. East India Company, representing the advantage of making trial of a process of that kind on a large scale—*e. g.*, in a hospital.

SECTION A.—(Mathematical and Physical Science.)

President.—Professor Wm. Thomson, M.A., F.R.S.L. & E.
Vice-Presidents.—J. C. Adams, F.R.S.; Sir David Brewster, K.H., F.R.S.; Right Rev. Dr. Denvir; Sir W. R. Hamilton, Astron. Royal for Ireland; Rev. Dr. Lloyd, F.R.S.; Professor Stokes.

Secretaries.—W. J. M. Rankine; John Tyndall, Ph.D.; Professor Dixon, F.T.C.D.; Professor Stevelly.

Committee.—Dr. Andrews; John Frederick Bateman; Robert B. B. Carmichael, F.T.C.D.; The Earl of Dunraven; William Fairbairn; Andrew Graham; Professor D. Gray; Henry Hennessey; Rev. Dr. E. Hincks; Professor Jellett, F.T.C.D.; Dr. Lee; Professor Phillips; Colonel Portlock; Dr. E. du Bois Raymond; Rev. Dr. Robinson; F. Ronalds; the Earl of Rosse; C. Piazzi Smyth; Colonel Sykes; Richard Townsend; J. Welsh; Professor Wilson; John Wilson; Lord Wrottesley; Thomas Webster.

The business of the Section was commenced by the reading of a Report of Professor Powell 'On Luminous Meteors.' Mr. Robert Russel read a paper 'On the Action of those Storms to which the Rotatory Theory has been applied.' His remarks seemed chiefly directed against this theory; the different hygrometric states of different portions of the assumed whirlwind was a proof of its non-existence. The barometric fall which precedes a storm he accounted for by referring it to south-west currents in high regions of the atmosphere. With regard to the difficulties of different hygrometric states, Professor Stokes remarked, that in accordance with the Rotatory theory, different portions of the same whirlwind might be derived from sources of various hygrometric characters. Mr. Rankine read a paper 'On the Reconciliation of the Mechanical Energy of the Universe.' The mutual convertibility of the various forces of nature is a view which is rapidly extending itself among men of science; the experiments of Joule directly prove the convertibility of motion into heat, and *vice versa*. According to Mr. Rankine's notion, which was first expressed by Professor Wm. Thomson, the tendency as regards the motion of the heavenly bodies was to convert motion into heat, and thus to bring the universe to a stand-still, and its various bodies together. Even supposing this to occur at some indefinitely future period, the author showed the conceivability of matter being again broken into fragments by the very agency which it had itself developed, a new distribution of worlds being the consequence. Mr. Rankine next made a communication having reference to the experimental fact established by M. Renou, that the temperature of rivers is higher than the mean temperature of the atmosphere above them. This Mr. Rankine attributed to the friction of the water against its bed, and of the particles against each other, showing the mathematical expression for the quantity of heat thus derived. Dr. Tyndall

asked whether the experiments of Humboldt had not established the fact that the mean temperature of certain portions of the solid earth is greater than that of the superincumbent atmosphere? Here friction is out of the question; and whatever explained this fact would also be applicable to those observed by M. Renou. Mr. Rankine admitted the existence of the observations referred to, but urged, nevertheless, that friction was a true cause, and undoubtedly contributed its share towards the production of the phenomenon; but the amount of that particular share further experiment could alone decide. Professor W. Thomson made a communication 'On certain Magnetic Curves, with Electrical and Hydrodynamical Applications.' These curves were represented by a series of beautiful diagrams suspended in the Section-room. They mark the deflection of the lines of force in a uniform magnetic field when a magnet or a sphere of soft iron is introduced into it. A ball of soft iron draws the lines of force more closely together; a diamagnetic ball, on the contrary, pushes them more widely apart. Professor Thomson has deduced the general equation of the curves thus formed, and by giving particular values to the constants in the equations, curves of great beauty, and considerably complicated, are obtained. In stating the distinction between magnetic and diamagnetic substances, Professor Thomson defined the latter to be bodies whose magnetic inductive capacities are less than that of mere space, or, better still, as this affords no tangible conception, of weaker inductive capacity than the luminiferous ether. This was the clearest and simplest way of viewing the matter. Dr. Tyndall expressed his dissent from the definition of Professor Thomson; but before he proceeded a sentence in his argument, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, the Countess of Eglinton, and suite, entered the room, where his Excellency was a witness of one of those discussions which sometimes throw a flush into the pallid cheeks of science. The first requisite of a definition, urged Dr. Tyndall, was clearness; and if a standard was referred to, it ought to be a perfectly intelligible one. Professor Thomson referred to the luminiferous ether as a standard of magnetic inductive capacity—to a thing which is almost an abstraction, and the very existence of which is doubted by many eminent men. Even granting its existence, its magnetic inductive capacity may be enormous instead of zero. Its tenuity is extreme; and were it compressed to the density of oxygen, its magnetic inductive capacity might be far greater than the latter gas. Professor Thomson has informed us that the action of bismuth is the same as that of iron, if we suppose the poles of the latter reversed. Why, then, deny polarity to bismuth? This seems certainly a far clearer way of viewing the matter than by reference to a merely hypothetical ether; for if iron be polar, by all parity of reasoning bismuth is polar too. Professor Thomson, in reply, reiterated his former opinion, which was conformable to that of Professor Faraday, and stated that certain inexplicable mechanical difficulties present themselves when Dr. Tyndall's views are followed up. While his Excellency was present, Sir David Brewster gave an account of a rock crystal lens and decomposed glass found in Nineveh. The lens was plano-convex, and had its plane surface parallel to the axis of the crystal. It was rough at the edges, and was certainly not used for ornament. The only inference is, that it was used for optical purposes. The decomposed glass exhibited by Sir David was exactly similar to what he had himself found at St. Leonard's in Scotland, and which is often found at Rome and other ancient cities. The decomposition commences at a central point, and expands in concentric circles round it; the siliceous becomes separated from the other constituents of the glass, and forms itself into crystals of quartz, which are visible under the microscope. Sir David next read a paper 'On the Form of Images produced by Lenses and Mirrors of different sizes.' He showed that by using large lenses, photographers introduce parts into their pictures which should be totally unseen; an addition is made to the nose, chin, or other feature,

which the eye cannot discern in the original; and from this sole cause arises almost all the hideousness and monstrosity of photographic pictures. Childhood is deprived of its smile, youth of its beauty, and the vigour of manhood is reduced to the decrepitude of quaking old age. The lens, instead of being three or four inches in diameter, as is usually the case, ought, strictly speaking, to be only two-tenths of an inch. Sir David exhibited an experiment, which was strikingly confirmative of his view. A communication from Professor Powell was read, in which was described a certain defect of vision under which the writer laboured. The defect was traced to the fact of an object being seen triple by one eye.

On Friday the proceedings of the Section commenced by the exhibition and description of Lord Rosse's diagrams of the Nebulæ. In many cases the Nebulæ presented a vortical appearance, as if the mass had been twirling round in space, and thus became furnished with a number of spiral wings. This spiral figure was a prevailing character in most of the diagrams. Sometimes a star is observed in the centre of the Nebula, and the latter appears to recede to a certain distance from the star, and to arrange itself symmetrically round the latter. In other cases the Nebula is coiled round the star, like an Archimedean spiral, till at length, reaching a certain limit, it is suddenly broken, and thrown, like a reflected sunbeam, in another direction. His Lordship gave an account of the progress made in polishing reflectors up to the present time; and hopes that the operation may eventually be performed very well by ordinary workmen. Professor Thomson communicated the results of certain experiments on air rushing through small apertures, conducted by himself and Mr. Joule. To carry the experiments out to their proper extent, apparatus of great strength, and probably also steam power, would be required. Professor Piazzzi Smyth gave an explanation of the 'Red Prominences observed during a total Solar Eclipse.' The conclusion arrived at by the Professor is, that these appearances are due to the diffraction of the sun's rays at the moon's edge. This view is developed at great length by Professor von Feilitzsch, who observed the solar eclipse at Karlskrona, in Sweden, in 1851, and published a detached memoir on the subject afterwards. Professor Smyth made no allusion whatever to this memoir, and was probably not aware of its existence. As an act of fair play towards Professor von Feilitzsch, Dr. Tyndall felt bound to communicate this to the Section. We may add that a notice of the above memoir appears in one of the numbers of the 'Philosophical Magazine' for the present year. Dr. Tyndall read a paper on the 'Molecular Peculiarities of certain Organic Substances.' Drawn by former researches to the contemplation of molecular action, he has commenced a series of inquiries in connexion on this subject, and the first-fruits of his labours were here laid before the meeting. Organic substances naturally suggest themselves as likely to afford instructive examples of molecular action; for here nature, to attain her especial ends, has arranged her materials in a peculiar manner, which arrangement makes itself manifest when the substance is made the vehicle of a force. Wood was first examined; cubes were cut from a number of trees, four faces of each cube being parallel to the fibre, and consequently two perpendicular to it. Further, two opposite faces were parallel to the ligneous layers and two perpendicular to them. The problem to which Dr. Tyndall addressed himself was as follows: If a source of heat of definite measurable amount be brought close up to the face of the cube, required the quantity transmitted through the mass of the cube to the opposite face in a minute of time. This quantity will of course depend upon conductive power of the wood in the given direction. To measure it, a new instrument has been devised by Dr. Tyndall, whose indications are capable of extreme accuracy. Fifty-seven different kinds of wood have been examined by means of this instrument; the heat travels with a maximum velocity along the fibre, but its flux is not

the same in all directions perpendicular to the fibre; it travels with greater speed across the ligneous layers than along them. The complete law of action may be expressed as follows:—At all points situate in the centre of growth, wood possesses three unequal axes of calorific conduction, which are at right angles to each other. The first and greatest axis is parallel to the fibre; the second and intermediate axis is perpendicular to the fibre, and also perpendicular to the ligneous layers: while the third and least axis is perpendicular to the fibre and parallel to the layers. Dr. Tyndall further shows that in this single substance there are four systems of axes coinciding with each other. The axes of elasticity, established by Savart, and the axes of calorific conduction, of fluid permeability and of cohesion, established by himself. Wood, in fact, furnishes us with one of the most instructive examples of the influence of molecular aggregation with which we are acquainted.

Sir David Brewster gave an account of a remarkable case of mirage in Radnorshire. Travellers in Switzerland observe not unfrequently their own shadows projected against the mists upon the mountains; but the peculiarity of the case described by Sir David, and what is extremely rare, is, that it is not a case of shadow but of reflection. A little girl saw her own image—her clothes with all their hues—painted against a cloud. She waved a victorine, and the image did the same, returning not only her motion, but also every colour, with the utmost fidelity. Sir David also gave an account of a singular case of vision, in which a person was able to see so small an extent of surface at once that at a short distance he could only observe a feature at a time, being unable to take in the aggregation presented by the face. When the face was very distant, and thus its apparent magnitude sufficiently diminished, the whole of it was observed. In this case, as explained by Sir David, the retina was ineffective; the man saw with the choroid, which at one small place—the *foramen centrale*—is uncovered by the retina. The minuteness of this space permitted only a small amount of surface to be seen at a time. Mr. Alfred M'Farland read a paper, remarkable for its poetic imagery, upon the 'Fata Morgana of the Irish Coast,' describing in flowing language what he had seen himself, and what he had heard from others, and giving many interesting accounts of the superstitions to which it has given rise among the peasantry of the coast. Professor Thomson made a communication on the 'Sources of Heat generated by a Galvanic Battery.' He proves that in a system of cells the amount of heat generated is greatest in the cell which presents the greatest resistance to the passage of the current; and that whenever oxygen is liberated on a plate without dissolving it, the heat developed is greater than when hydrogen is liberated on the same plate. A theory of the 'Probable Origin of the Asteroids' was given by Mr. James Nasmyth. He compares the planet whose scattered fragments are supposed to form the asteroids, to a Saint Rupert's drop. It had been in a state of fusion, the surface cooled, hardened, and resisted for a time the tension created by the contraction of the central portions. This tension became at length so strong that the crust yielded, and the mass became scattered, as in the case of the drop. The proceedings of Friday were closed by a paper from Mr. J. J. Waterston, 'On the Gradient of Density in Saturated Vapours.'

Mr. Ronalds made his ninth Annual Report concerning the Kew Observatory. The following is an enumeration of proceedings, &c., which he referred to:—1. The continuation and satisfactory conclusion of the six months' trial of his magnetograph, undertaken under the auspices of the Royal Society. 2. The progress of improvement in the albuminous processes of photography, as applicable to his self-registering system. 3. Arrangements, &c., relative to the interesting collection of instruments sent to the Kew Observatory from the Royal Society. 4. The addition of a kind of small air-pump to M. Perreaux's dividing instrument for

calibrating the calibration of thermometer-tubes, &c. 5. Additional improvements to those described in his last Report, upon M. Regnault's hygrometer and aspirator. 6. Measures which he has taken to fulfil the wishes of the Spanish government as to the establishment of electrical, magnetic, and other observations at the Royal Madrid Observatory, under the direction of Don Juan Chavarri. 7. Some information required on the part of the Sardinian government relative to a proposed establishment of a similar kind at Turin. 8. Construction of a model, and other proceedings, which had for their object the establishment of a complete self-registering electrical apparatus on the roof the Octagon-room at the Royal Greenwich Observatory. 9. The commencement of a barometrograph, thermometrograph, &c., of the Kew kind, for the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, Mr. Johnson, director, and considerations relative to electrical apparatus for the same. 10. Construction by Mr. Adie of electrical apparatus of the Kew kind for Mr. Brown, director of the Trevandrum Observatory. 11. Considerations relative to electrical apparatus for the Armagh Observatory. 12. The supply of advice and a little electrical apparatus to Lieutenant Cheyne, of the *Assistance*, in Captain Belcher's expedition for observations of atmospheric electricity in the Polar regions. 13. The construction of an experimental balance magnetometer, supported by slender springs, in lieu of knife-edges, for and according to the suggestion of the Astronomer-Royal. Mr. Ronalds made no reference to the operations which have been conducted at Kew under the direction of "the Committee for constructing and verifying Standard Instruments," or to those under Professor Stokes' direction, for determining the index of friction in different gases. These proceedings will be elsewhere noticed.

Section D.—(Zoology and Botany, including Physiology.)

President.—W. Ogilby, Esq.

Vice-Presidents.—Professor Allman; Professor Walker Arnott; Dr. Robert Ball; Professor E. Forbes; Professor Balfour; Professor Owen.

Secretaries.—George C. Hyndman, Esq.; Edwin Lankester, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.; Dr. Dickie.

Committee.—C. C. Babington, Esq.; Professor Carlile; The Prince of Canino; Michael Connal, Esq.; Professor Ferguson; Professor Gordon; T. H. Huxley, Esq.; Professor M'Cosh; Dr. Mackay; Dr. Redfern; Lovell Reeve, Esq.; Wyville Thomson, Esq.; Robert Patterson, Esq.; Rev. Thomas Hineks; J. S. Bowerbank, Esq.; J. E. Winterbottom, Esq.; William Thomson, Esq.; Dr. Gibson; Lieutenant-Colonel Sykes; Dr. R. C. Alexander; Dr. Curdie; Dr. Stanger; Professor Burden; Dr. Fowler; Rev. Professor Hineks; Rev. Dr. Hineks; Major Munro; Professor Royle; James Wilson, Esq.; Captain Strachey; Dr. Bossey.

In Section D the northern capital of Ireland has for many years past been well represented. The name of one of her citizens, Mr. Patterson, is connected with the earliest days of the Association; that of Professor Allman is attached to many a valuable memoir in the pages of its 'Transactions,' and Belfast claims his school-days and the development and direction of those faculties whose cultivation has now brought forth so many valuable scientific fruits. Mr. Ogilby, well known as an able and zealous zoologist, now worthily heads the Section in the capital of his province.

But however highly these names stand, it was not by them that the North of Ireland was most familiarly represented in the councils of the British Association, and more particularly in Section D. The lamented naturalist whose death we had the painful task of recording some months back—whose kindly social virtues and eminent integrity endeared him as much to his fellow-citizens as his acuteness, wide information, untiring zeal, and modest caution caused him to be respected in the wide circle of European naturalists—was always known as William Thompson of Belfast. And it was but a just and proper tribute to his memory that the business of the Section, meeting in his native town in consequence for the most part of the arrangements which he had made, should be commenced by the graceful and eloquent *éloge* which was delivered by his old friend and school-fellow, Mr. Ogilby, from the presidential chair which he would have occupied had he lived.

Two of Mr. Thompson's posthumous papers were

brought before the Section by his literary executors, Messrs. Patterson and Garrett. The one a 'Supplementary Report upon the Fauna of Ireland,' and the other 'Upon the Fresh-water Fishes of the Province of Ulster,' and they exhibited his usual conscientious accuracy and careful attention to detail.

Another paper read before the Section by Prof. E. Forbes owed its existence principally to Mr. Thompson's peculiar tact in the discrimination of species. Two specimens of *Sepioida* had been taken in the Bay of Belfast. They very closely resembled one another, but though Mr. Thompson was not familiar with the *Cephalopoda*, his critical instinct suggested to him that they were of different species. To satisfy his doubts he sent them to Professor Forbes, and it turned out that while one was the ordinary British species, the other had as yet only been met with in the Mediterranean.

We have several new and promising names this year upon the roll of Section D, and some very valuable communications have been laid before its members in most branches of botany and zoology. The discussions which have taken place have been animated and well supported, more pointed and less prosy than is the wont of discussions in general. There has been an abundance of material too; care has not sat upon the countenance of the worthy Secretary as we have seen it sit, when he has been doubtful of the *yield* of his scientific crop. It is rarely that the end of any day's work has not left some residual communication to be carried over to the account of the next.

In the department of Botany some very valuable papers have been read before the Section by Professor Dickie, with regard to the geographical distribution of Irish plants. In the first, 'On the Altitudinal Ranges of Plants in the North of Ireland,' Dr. Dickie pointed out the remarkable fact that the range of Alpine plants is altogether lower in the north of Ireland than in corresponding latitudes in Scotland, and furthermore, that the range upon the north-west coast of Ireland is lower than that upon the north and north-east coasts, so that the range of Alpine plants descends from Scotland, westward, for any given parallel. In the discussion which ensued, Professor Arnott and the Prince of Canino drew attention to the importance of distinguishing between Alpine plants with a wet and those with a dry station, and Professor Balfour showed that some Alpine plants descend very low in the western Highlands; but in the main Dr. Dickie's conclusions appeared to be borne out. In his second memoir, 'On the Distribution of the Marine Algae on the British and Irish Coasts, with reference to the probable influence of the Gulf-Stream,' Professor Dickie stated that there is an anomaly in the marine vegetation of England which does not exist among the land plants. Algae found in the south of England are also found in the Orkneys, but are altogether wanting in the intermediate points. This remarkable circumstance Dr. Dickie explained by the known influence of the gulf-stream in rendering the mean temperature of the Orkneys higher than that of the coasts of Ireland and Scotland further south. Professor E. Forbes brought forward evidence in favour of Dr. Dickie's view, and in confirmation of his facts. The Lusitanian Fauna, which extends northwards round the western borders of Ireland, is absent in the Irish Channel, and upon the east and west coasts of Scotland and England, to which the influence of the warm current does not extend. Dr. Walker Arnott stated, in confirmation of the influence of the gulf-stream, that large masses of North American *Ectocarpus* are frequently drifted on to the west coast of Scotland; and Professor Owen drew the attention of lady collectors to the important service which they might render to hydrography by carefully collecting, noting, and preserving the sea-weeds of any place in which they might be resident.

As belonging to the geographical department of natural history, we may perhaps also here advert to the interesting memoir of Dr. Hamilton 'Upon the Marine Birds which produce Guano on

the Coasts of Peru and Bolivia.' The author pointed out that great stores of agricultural wealth are accumulated upon the islands which lie scattered along the west coast of South America, in the guano produced by the countless flocks of birds which inhabit them. Unfortunately, however, these islands are unapproachable by sailing vessels, or even by boats of any ordinary construction, in consequence of the high surf continually breaking upon them. Dr. Hamilton, however, described the kind of boats, or rather catamarans, in which a landing may be effected, and pressed upon the Section the necessity of Government steamers being sent out to collect the precious *rejectamenta*. A very good evidence of the faultiness of the American claims to the discovery of the Lobos Islands was produced to the Section by Dr. Hamilton, in the shape of a map bearing date 1574, in which these islands were clearly laid down. From the President of the Section we had, on Saturday, an eloquent discourse 'On the Geographical Distribution of Animals in connexion with the progress of Human Civilization,' which was listened to with great attention by a dense audience of fair and fashionable listeners; though, to say truth, Mr. Ogilby's chief conclusion—that the human race is, in the main, indebted to its domesticated quadrupeds for such civilization as it possesses—could hardly be a comfortable or satisfactory doctrine for his audience. "In whatever country no animals capable of domestication have existed," said Mr. Ogilby, "there the human race has remained savage, or in a state of semi-barbarism." It was necessary to this argument, of course, that the bison should be assumed to be untameable—a proposition which was opposed by the Prince of Canino in the subsequent discussion—on the ground that in those countries where no animals were domesticated, the fault lay "not with the beasts, but with the men." Another debate appealed to mythology for information upon the introduction of our domestic animals; but we think that his supposition, that the elopement of Europa upon the Bull was the first introduction of milch kine into the western world, will present insuperable difficulties to some minds.

Some very important and interesting papers upon matters of detail have been read in the Section. Among these we must particularly notice that of Professor Allman 'Upon the Signification of the Oviparous Vesicles in the Hydroid Polypes,' in which it was clearly shown that these vesicles have essentially the same structure as the naked-eyed Medusæ. Some extremely valuable and careful observations were laid before the Section by Professor Allman, who comes to the conclusion "that the ordinary polypoid structure is not sufficient for the production of ova, and that for these bodies a medusoid structure is always necessary, whether it be obvious, as in the free gemmæ, or disguised, as in the fixed ovisacs."

To the same gentleman the Section was indebted for two memoirs upon the 'Development of Microscopic Algae and Fungi.' It appears that in the process of steeping flax—during which a most abominable odour is given out—a minute cellular organism, closely resembling the yeast-plant, is developed in very large quantities; taking on the form of a minute globule moving about actively by means of a vibratile tail, of a dichotomously-branched cellular frond, or of an elongated cellular filament. The odour given out appears to be principally due to the evolution of a peculiar chemical compound during the growth of the plant.

The other communication referred to a very peculiar alga which colours large masses of water in very many of the ponds of Ireland. Its structure would be unintelligible without figures.

Mr. Wyville Thomson read an excellent paper 'Upon the Characters of the Sertularian Zoophytes,' and Mr. Hyndman gave an interesting description of an *Acalephe* new to the British seas, belonging to the genus *Agalena* of Eschscholtz, which was taken in the Bay of Belfast. We are already indebted to Mr. Hyndman for the only *Diphyes* discovered in the British seas.

An important contribution to our knowledge of

the marine *Bryozoa* was made by the Rev. Thomas Hincks, who described a flask-like body existing between two of the tentacles of species of *Membranipora*, *Cycloma*, and *Alcyonidium*, in which, in spring, large quantities of *spermatozoa* are contained.

The papers upon more general questions, and those read upon the last day, we leave until our next number.

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

THE Archæological Association having brought its proceedings in the midland counties to a close on the 21st of August, the Archæological Institute commenced its annual congress at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 24th of August, under the patronage of the Duke of Northumberland, with Lord Talbot de Malahide as general president, and, as sectional presidents, the Earl of Carlisle for history, the Hon. H. T. Liddell for antiquities, Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, for architecture. The proceedings of the Institute have been so regularly and fully chronicled in the public journals that we deem it enough to record the time and general tenour of the meeting. As at the Newark meeting, the excursions and explorations formed the most pleasant and attractive part of the proceedings. Newcastle itself presented many objects of great interest. The Norman keep of the old castle, with the museum of the Antiquarian Society, fittingly lodged there, was alone worthy of a long pilgrimage to the north. The parish church of St. Nicholas, rebuilt in the first half of the fourteenth century, the parish church of St. Andrew, the town walls, towers, and gates, with other local points, were visited. Of the excursions, the most notable were to Durham cathedral, Alnwick castle, Prudhoe castle, Hexham priory, Chesterholm, and other places on the line of the Roman wall, the church of the venerable Bede, at Jarrow, Tynemouth priory. At the different places lectures and explanations were given by those acquainted with the localities. At the ordinary meetings many papers of interest and value were read, and the evening conversaziones pleasantly varied the proceedings. Altogether the meetings of both the Association and the Institute have been satisfactory; and it would be difficult to find two districts richer in historical scenes than those which this year were visited.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WE may assure our readers that the paragraph to which the last new attack upon us in the 'Athenæum' refers, has not been regarded as an abuse of confidence by any one except by the excellent moral editor of that journal himself. By the President and Officers of the British Association, with whom we have had the honour of being associated during the last ten days at Belfast, both in public and in private, it was received in a proper spirit, as manifesting a timely and generous interest in the prosperity of the meeting. The article of our contemporary was indeed first shown to us by an officer of the Association, to whom a copy of the journal had been addressed, and at whose house we happened to be breakfasting; and great was the amusement, to say nothing more, that was caused among the company assembled. We beg of our contemporary, for his own sake, to desist from these unmanly and petty expressions of jealousy. It is obvious that he cannot always compete with us either in the acquisition or use of scientific materials, and his attempt to ascribe this advantage to unworthy means will only tend to leave him farther behind. We never interfere with the strong points of our contemporary. On such subjects, for example, as the 'Authorship of Junius' Letters,' we acknowledge his pre-eminence.

As one of the characteristic social features of the British Association, we may speak of the annual dinner of the Red Lion Club of Naturalists, under the presidency of Professor Edward Forbes. Such a cordial interchange of kind words, such a hearty manifestation of sympathetic feelings, supported in

a high degree with a recognition of the importance and usefulness of scientific research, among a band of naturalists assembled from the remotest parts of the kingdom, we never remember to have participated in. Communications of intrinsic value were made to the 'Section,' now in humorous prose, now in verse, and each vied with the other in adding to the harmony and learning of the occasion. Among the toasts that were responded to by those whose names were coupled with them, were Prince Lucien Bonaparte and the foreign naturalists, Professor Owen and the Royal College of Surgeons, Professor Edward Forbes and the Lions, Professor Balfour, Dr. Walker Arnott and the naturalists of Scotland, Professor Allman, Dr. Ball and the naturalists of Dublin, Mr. Patterson and the naturalists of Belfast, Mr. Jennings and the naturalists of Cork, Mr. Huxley, Mr. Babington and the naturalists of England, Captain Allen, Dr. Stanger and the explorers of the Niger, Mr. Reeve and the scientific weekly press, Dr. Lankester, the secretary, and lastly, M. Claudet, who had procured the signatures of all present with the intention of presenting to each member a calotyped copy.

With much regret we notice the death, on the 5th instant, of Dr. William Macgillivray, Professor of Natural History in Marischal College, Aberdeen, the author of the 'History of British Birds,' and various other works on natural history. Before his appointment to the professorship at Aberdeen, from which university he received the honorary degree of LL.D., Mr. Macgillivray was Curator of the Royal College of Surgeons at Edinburgh, occupying a post corresponding to that held by Mr. Owen at the Hunterian Museum. At Edinburgh, and afterwards at Aberdeen, he was known and esteemed for his personal amiability and sterling worth as well as for his scientific attainments. Rarely has any naturalist so combined love of nature with close study of books. To see Mr. Macgillivray at home, he seemed a man devoted wholly to literary research, but in the field he was the most ardent worshipper of nature, and his works happily combine the accuracy of the student with the anecdote and enthusiasm of the field naturalist. For some time his health had been declining; but he lived to complete his 'History of British Birds,' the last page of which contains a touching allusion to his own approaching end. Three volumes of this work were published about twelve years ago, the remaining two have just appeared, and of these we hope next week to give some account.

At Tunbridge Wells, on the 3rd inst., whither he had gone with the hope of recruiting his exhausted health, died George Richardson Porter, Joint-Secretary of the Board of Trade. In him statistical science has lost one of its ablest cultivators, and the country one of its best public servants, — a man of varied knowledge, clear judgment, unwearied industry, and exemplary worth. His first connexion with the Board of Trade was at the direct request of Lord Auckland, in 1832, when he was appointed chief of the statistical department. Under Lord Dalhousie, the superintendence of the newly-formed railway department was also committed to his care. Both these offices he filled ably and honourably, till, on the retirement of Mr. Macgregor, M.P. for Glasgow, he was advanced to the post of Joint-Secretary. Mr. Porter's well-known work, 'The Progress of the Nation,' attests the variety and utility of his knowledge. But the greater part of the results of his study and labour will be found scattered throughout many official reports and papers contributed by him to the Statistical Society, the British Association, and other public bodies. At the Statistical Section of the Association his presence and aid will be much missed. Since his death, a paper of much interest, communicated by him, was read at Belfast, 'An Analysis of the Reports of the French Government on Industrial Labour.'

Lately died (31st Aug.), aged 75, Mrs. Gray, the widow of Mr. Samuel Frederic Gray, the author of the 'Supplements to the Pharmacopœia,' the 'Practical Chemist,' and other scientific works. She was mother of Mr. Samuel F. Gray, F.H.S.; Dr. John Edward Gray, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.; Mr.

George Robert Gray, F.L.S.; and of the wife of Mr. Samuel Birch, F.S.A., &c. The three latter gentlemen are officers of the British Museum. The names of ancient Roman matrons were honourably recorded as they gave warriors to the state. To have been the mother of so many literary and scientific persons, is a distinction worthy of note in the present age.

M. Dizé, a distinguished chemist, Member of the Académie de Médecine, and of various learned societies of France, died lately, aged eighty-eight. When yet a young chemist, he established the manufacture of artificial soda, which has become to France the source of a revenue of a million of francs. On the breaking out of the first revolution, he organized at the Ecole Militaire the central pharmacy of the armies of the Republic. He also invented new processes for refining gold and silver, and did various services for public departments of the State.

Another of the many Peel statues has this week been inaugurated, having the peculiarity of being in his native town of Bury. This statue is by E. H. Baily, R.A., and is much admired as a work of art, as well as a likeness of the statesman. The pedestal bears on one side the famous quotation from Sir Robert's speech on the abolition of the Corn-laws, "It may be that I shall leave a name," &c. On the front of the pedestal is the word Peel, with the family arms. The Leeds people showed better taste by the inscription of the name alone.

The Museum of Ornamental Art at Marlborough House has this week been re-opened, the admission on Mondays and Tuesdays being free, on Wednesdays and Thursdays by payment of sixpence; on Saturdays it is closed. A new session of the scholastic portion of the Department of Practical Art commences this month, of which, with the alterations and improvements in the Museum, and the general state of the national institution, for the present localized at Marlborough House, a full account will appear in next week's 'Gazette.'

Some of the Transatlantic publishers have projected a trade sale of American works in London in the month of November. The books will either be disposed of to English publishers for re-publication, or subscribed for among the trade, so as to secure direct orders for the American editions. This is a comparatively private speculation; but we have no doubt that the international commerce in literature will before long be greatly extended. The number of American books imported is annually increasing. If regular trade sales commence, American writers will find new fields for their labours. We trust that, by all this, the copyright question between the two countries will be brought to some definite arrangement. We fear, however, that so long as the literary merit of works is so much on the side of England, the American Government will decline coming to any terms. The proportion of American reprints to those of English authors is very small. In the list of new works published during the month of July, as given in Norton's 'Literary Gazette,' out of fifty-two new works twelve are reprints of English books. The chief of these we named last week. The following are among those since announced:—'The Conquerors of India, and their Bondsmen,' Niebuhr's 'Ancient History,' edited by Dr. Schmitz; 'The Eclipse of Faith,' by Henry Rogers; and Mrs. Traill's 'Canadian Crusoes,' edited by Miss Strickland.

A recent attempt to reach the summit of Mont Blanc was so nearly crowned with success, and was attended with difficulties so unusual, as to merit record along with the more auspicious efforts of former travellers. The party, consisting of three Englishmen, Messrs. Usher, Sargent, and R. H. Bulwer, with the usual number of guides, after various adventures during the ascent, had scaled the Mer de la Côte, and had advanced about a quarter of a mile towards the summit, when a dense fog, accompanied by wind and hail, compelled them to halt and speedily to retreat lest the tracks should be obliterated. The violence of the tempest was irresistible. Only by all holding on together could

the party retain footing. They reached Chamouni in safety at nine in the evening, after eleven hours' descent, the storm-cloud remaining throughout the day on the top of the mountain.

The Manchester Free Library was opened with great élan on the 2nd inst., a distinguished company having assembled to inaugurate the building. Sir J. Potter, Chairman of the Committee of the Library, presided; and having read a full report of the history of the Institution, formally handed over the title deeds of the building, and a transfer of the library to Mr. Barnes, the Mayor of Manchester, in trust for the people. The Mayor having, in suitable terms, acknowledged the gift, speeches were delivered by Lord Shaftesbury, Sir E. B. Lytton, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Bright, the Bishop of Manchester, Mr. C. Knight, Mr. Felkin, Mayor of Nottingham, Dr. Vaughan, the Earl of Wilton, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and Sir James Stephen, Professor of Modern History at Cambridge. In the evening, a public meeting was again held in the Institution, Sir John Potter presiding. A report of the Working Men's Committee was read by Mr. Paul, the Secretary. Speeches were delivered by the Bishop of Manchester, Lord Shaftesbury, Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Bright, Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and Mr. Brotherton.

The balloon mania is likely soon to come to a crisis, some of the recent exhibitions having been of a kind to demand public interference. At Cremorne, besides a foolhardy feat by an acrobat suspended by ropes beneath the car, the Parisian spectacle of taking up four-footed beasts has been repeated. The secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has applied for a summons against Mr. Simpson, the proprietor of the gardens, for the ascent of M. Poitevin on the 23rd ult., when "a pony was affixed to the balloon, upon whose back the aeronaut mounted, and having danced a fandango, proceeded with it to Wimbledon." The application was under the Act 12 and 13 Vict., c. 92, by the clause which renders it illegal in any manner to "ill-treat, abuse, or torture" an animal. The horse was suspended by bandages round the abdomen, the whole weight of the animal and its rider being thrown on its body. Another exhibition, equally cruel and more absurd, has since been made by Madame Poitevin, representing Europa carried off by the Bull! In the absence of sufficient public feeling to check these silly barbarisms, Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of the Cruelty Prevention Society, deserves praise for his spirit in attacking the nuisance in the only legal way available. While the Vauxhall attraction of the ascent of a band of musicians may be ridiculous, there is no cruelty in it, on the principle of *volentibus non fit injuria*. But the infliction of this pain and terror on dumb animals is a piece of cruelty which public opinion and law ought to put down. It is unfortunate that these unseemly spectacles should have taken place at the very time that public attention was called to the balloon ascents for scientific purposes under the direction of the British Association. The second balloon ascent in connexion with the Kew observatory took place from Vauxhall on the 27th ult. Mr. Welsh and Mr. Nicklin were the aeronauts, under the guidance of Mr. Green. The balloon rose at 4.44 P.M., and descended at Lattimer, near Boxmoor, at 7.35, the distance of more than twenty-five miles having been traversed in 3h. 51m., while the rate of the former voyage was above forty miles an hour. The greatest height attained was 19,200 feet, the temperature then being 7° Fahrenheit. One of the dew points was 17° below zero. No difficulty of breathing was experienced.

A writer in the 'Daily News' lately called attention to the too famous catalogue of the British Museum, giving extracts from official papers with critical and comical comments. We have not spared our remarks on this subject as occasion offered, but let justice be done even to M. Panizzi. For the catalogue-making the librarian has no extra pay, as the reader of the article would be led to infer. We are not to expect that Mr. Panizzi will work at once gratuitously and heartily at a

task far more laborious and irksome than his daily routine occupations as librarian. The tables in the 'Daily News' show arrears merely of entering the titles of books, which under the present arrangements for overtaking them, cannot be reached under a period of half-a-century. If the catalogue is ever completed, the government must efficiently interfere with aid. Mr. Panizzi cannot be expected to do the work of a Briareus and an Argus at once.

A dinner was given lately in Dublin, by the members of the medical and surgical professions, to Dr. J. Y. Simpson, President of the College of Physicians, and Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Simpson's name is most widely spread as the discoverer of the use of chloroform as an anodyne. To the scientific world his original researches and observations in various departments of physiology and medicine are well known. At the dinner in Dublin, Sir Philip Crampton, senior member of the profession, presided, and Dr. Montgomery, President of the King and Queen's College of Physicians, was vice-chairman. Dr. Lindworm, of Munich, and Dr. Retzius, Professor of Midwifery at Stockholm, happening to be also visiting Dublin at the time, were guests at the banquet.

The friends and admirers of the late Mr. William Allen, the landscape painter, of whom we gave an obituary notice lately, have opened a public subscription for a fund for his family, left unprotected by his sudden decease. This is a case to which none of the objections often justly made on the ground of the improvidence of artists and literary men can be applied. Labouring under disease of the heart, and with a large family, he was unable to make any future provisions for those dependent on his professional exertions by insurance of his life. The peculiarity of the case justifies the benevolent appeal.

M. Secchi, Director of the Observatory of the Collège Romain, discovered at Rome, on the morning of August 26th, a small comet in the constellation of the Twins, probably the same announced already by Biela in another position.

Two Medical Inspectors, Dr. Sutherland and Mr. Grainger, have been appointed "to watch the threatenings and approach of cholera." The disease is reported as spreading fatally in Prussia, and steadily advancing in its old north-western direction.

FINE ARTS.

It may please our readers to know what the Belgian journals say of the English artists who have sent works to the Exhibition at Antwerp. An extract translated from the 'Independance,' the principal newspaper in Belgium, will serve as a specimen,—"English painting is scarcely known on the Continent. Whence comes it that our allies of Great Britain, who so readily take long voyages, and who send the productions of their manufacturing industry to all parts of the Continent, keep to themselves alone the productions of their artistic genius? Is it distrust of their power? We do not suppose it; for excess of modesty is not one of the distinctive features in their national character. Is it disdain of the suffrages of other nations? We cannot and will not believe it. Let us not, however, seek the cause of the fact, and especially let us distrust suppositions which most frequently lead to error. When a fact is patent there is no risk in freely and simply stating it. That we will do. English painters do not exhibit on the Continent; they have no doubt their reasons for that, but that is their affair, and not ours. With the exception of the grand biblical compositions of Mr. Martin, and of some portraits of Sir T. Lawrence, people on the Continent were in almost complete ignorance as to the qualities of English painting. It was not doubted that such artists as Wilkie owed their great reputation to real merit; but a personal opinion is not founded on the reports of the public voice, however unanimous they may be. Let us then be thankful to the English painters who have sent their works to the Exhibition at

Antwerp, for having responded to the appeal made to them by Belgium. We will not engage ourselves to praise them whether they deserve it or not, but are sensible of their neighbourly attention." The 'Independance' then goes on to criticise in detail sundry of the English works. It pronounces that, however admirable Sir E. Landseer may be as a designer of animals, and especially of dogs, "he is no colourist," he has "none of the vigour of oil," and his work might be taken for "an aquarelle slightly washed." Altogether as regards colouring, which he expected to find magnificent, the critic is "véritablement déçupointé." Sir Edwin's painting is called the *Forrester's Family*, and represents a keeper's wife and children surrounded by deer. Mr. John Lucas's painting of *Prayer* is "not," says the critic, "carried in any respect to the degree of perfection which we consider indispensable." Mr. Mogford's *Billet-doux* displays, he remarks, "agreeable colouring but negligent execution." Mr. Pickersgill's *Favoured Knight* "is," he tells us, "cautiously but coldly painted." Mr. John Martin's *Creation* he pronounces to be "original and even eccentric." Mr. Uwins, he declares, has "the instinct of colouring, but correctness in design and good taste in composition are completely out of the sphere of his talent;" his painting of *The Interior of an Image-Maker's Shop* is "full of profusion and confusion." Finally, Mr. Brown's *King Lear in Cordelia's Tent*—the last work of which he speaks—"gives the impression of a painting of the fifteenth century."

The Academy of Fine Arts at Bologna offers, in 1853, a prize of eighty sequins for the best painting of *Saul Frightened at the Shadow of Samuel*; a like sum for the best piece of sculpture representing *Saint Theresa Painting in the Arms of the Angels*; and smaller prizes for sundry drawings. Foreigners are to be allowed to compete.

The annual exhibition of the works of French sculptors, who compete for what is called the 'Grand Prix de Rome,' has just taken place in Paris. The subject given for competition was *Philoctetes abandoned at Lemnos*. A young man named Lepère carried off the first prize, and another, named Carpeaux, the second.

Horace Vernet has gone to Algiers, with the view of finding new military subjects for his sketch-book.

MUSIC.

THE BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

THE Birmingham Festival of 1852 has been held this week, with a success rarely exceeded in the annals of music in this country, and not likely soon to be eclipsed. On some former occasions there have been particular events of marked brilliancy, but never has there been witnessed more general and sustained excellence in the whole performances. We referred last week to the disappointments of the Committee in their attempts to have the services of Jenny Lind, Sontag, Grisi, and Joanna Wagner. But no regrets found place in the presence of the admirable vocalists who bore the chief part in the meeting—Clara Novello, Viardot Garcia, Castellan, Anna Zerr, Williams, and Dolby. Neither was there time to miss Lablache or Mario, or other absentees, when Tamberlik and Sims Reeves, Formes and Lockey, Williams and Weiss, Polonini and Belletti, were on the platform. With soloists such as Sainton, Piatti, Bottesini, and Kuhe, with Stimpson as organist, and Costa as conductor, with an orchestra rarely and a chorus never surpassed, the *personnel* of the festival was all that could be desired for a triumphant success. And such has been the result. So many great events have been crowded into the four days, that our only difficulty is in the selection of a few notes worthy of record in the very brief account we must give of the festival.

On Tuesday the festival commenced in the Town Hall with the singing of the 'National Anthem,' the air of which was given with fine effect by Madame Castellan. The oratorio of the morning was Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, which was first brought

out at Birmingham six years ago, when the great composer himself presided at the performance. At the next triennial festival, in 1849, it was again performed; but on the present occasion with an effect so far superior, that we are at a loss how much of the difference to ascribe to the performers, or how much to the better appreciation of Mendelssohn's genius, and familiarity with his works, from the experience of the last three seasons at Exeter Hall and elsewhere. Certainly all justice was done to his noble work. Herr Formes took the place of Staudigl in 1846, and of Rechell in 1849. From the opening recitation, given with grand intonation, it was evident that Formes would bear his part finely through. At times he was a little too tame, but he delivered with great energy the best passages, as in the antiphony to the wild chorus of the Baal priests, 'Call him louder,' and in the fine air in the second part, 'For the mountains shall depart:' these were indeed nobly given. Almost all the chief vocalists had opportunity of distinguishing themselves in this first morning's oratorio. The duett of the prayer of the people to the Lord was given by Madame Castellan and Miss Williams; the angel's recitative, 'Elijah, get thee hence,' by Miss Dolby, Madame Viardot Garcia making her *début* in the air 'Woe unto them that forsake;' and the quartett of angels, 'Cast thy burden,' was sung by Madame Castellan and Miss Williams, Messrs. Lockey and Weiss. In the second part, the opening air, 'Hear ye, Israel,' was given with thrilling effect by Madame Clara Novello, whose clear notes rang through the hall. The trio of angels, 'Lift up thine eyes to the mountains,' as given by Madame Novello, Weiss, Miss Williams, and Miss Dolby, stirred the audience to irresistible breach of the rules against applause, and was heartily encored. Miss Dolby again sang beautifully the air 'Oh, rest in the Lord;' and Madame Novello's solo passages in the quartett of angels, 'Holy, holy,' was very striking. Mr. Sims Reeves' recitatives, 'Man of God,' and 'Then shall the righteous,' were well executed. Nor must we omit to say how much of the whole effect was owing to the dramatic power of Madame Viardot, as *Queen Jezebel*, whose energy in such passages as the denunciation of Elijah was finely expressed. The good training of the choruses was observable, and altogether Mendelssohn's *Elijah* was never better performed.

On Tuesday evening the first of the concerts of miscellaneous music took place. At these evening concerts the best and most favourite pieces heard during the last London season were presented, but in such concentration both of fine musical composition and high artistic skill, that the most constant attenders of metropolitan concerts must have been delighted with these *noctes Cavillanæ* at Birmingham. What a treat for a musical epicure, to hear on a single night, as was done on Wednesday, more than twenty of the choicest *morceaux* of such composers as Mozart, Mendelssohn, Rossini, Weber, Donizetti, Glück, Auber, Meyerbeer, and others as various in their styles, by some of the best vocalists and instrumentalists of the time. To select any of the pieces for special mention would occupy too long space, and is needless where the performers are all so well known, and the music is of established popularity. The points on which we should most wish to have dwelt in these evening concerts are the production for the first time of a wonderful fragment by Mendelssohn, the finale of an unfinished opera entitled *Lorely*, and the *Walpurgis Night* of the same composer. The latter of these is well known for its wild dramatic effect; but the genius displayed in *Lorely*, or the *Spirit of the Rhine*, far exceeds it in originality and beauty—the beauty of varied expression rather than of regular form. The idea of the opera is taken from old German legends of the Rhine-Spirit, the soul of the beautiful river, to the waters of which *Leonora*, having been deceived by her lover, devotes herself. Poetry makes this devotion figurative instead of literal, and the spirit of *Leonora* haunting the stream, is made the centre of a little world of spirit-life, which Mendelssohn has presented in strangely beautiful music. We

must reserve critical remarks till some other opportunity of hearing a piece likely, from its reception on Wednesday evening, to be a favourite with the public. Its performance left regret that so little of the opera remains in a fit state for use. The performance of Beethoven's *Grand Choral Symphony*, on Thursday evening, we would also like to have dwelt upon, if space permitted; and on some of the wonderful displays of taste and skill made by Messrs. Piatti, Sainon, Bottesini, and Herr Kuhe's brilliant execution of Mendelssohn's First Concerto in G minor, with full orchestra, and the orchestral performances generally, which on several occasions elicited fervid applause, especially in Mozart's *Jupiter* symphony, and in popular pieces, such as the overture to *Der Freischütz*. As to the vocalists, it is sufficient to say that all sang with their wonted ability or taste; while several, such as Mdlle. Anna Zerr, surprised by effects for which their previous reputation had scarcely prepared the audience.

Of the standard classic oratorios, Handel's *Messiah* was performed on Thursday morning, and *Samson* on Friday. Never was the *Messiah* heard with more magnificent effect. All the performers strove to rise to the height of the great argument, and, while there was not one failure, and scarcely a passage of weak effect, several of the singers surpassed their usual efforts. Tamberlik made his first attempt with English words in the fine tenor air, 'Thou shalt break them in pieces,' which he sang with admirable spirit. On Wednesday morning, Mendelssohn's unfinished posthumous oratorio, *Christus*, was produced. With all the disadvantage of a first performance, and of the work itself being fragmentary, the success was remarkable. The subject embracing scenes in the life of the Saviour from the journey of the Magi, and the angelic chorus at Bethlehem, down to the crucifixion and the entombment, there was scope for the versatility as well as the power of Mendelssohn's inventive genius. The question of the Eastern pilgrims, 'Say, where is he born?' and the response of the angelic chorus, 'Then shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a sceptre in Israel rise up,' presented some beautiful music, rising to grandeur in the magnificent chorale at the end of the response. The contrast in the style of the latter part of the oratorio, the trial and condemnation before Pilate, was strikingly brought out. The wailing of the women, the weeping of the daughters of Zion, was touchingly plaintive. The whole oratorio had a solemnizing influence, and the power of the composer in swaying the passions was irresistibly felt. All the music is choral, except the trio of the three magi, which was given by Sims Reeves, Weiss, and Formes. The recitative narrative, which is very brief, was well delivered by Mr. Sims Reeves. On the same morning a new anthem by Dr. Wesley was performed, some parts of which were worthy of the occasion, especially the solo, 'Say to those of fearful heart,' grandly given by Herr Formes, the quartett at the close, 'For in the wilderness shall waters break out,' with the chorus, which presents a fine specimen of fugal counterpoint. After *Christus*, on the same morning, Haydn's ever-fresh and ever-welcome *Creation* delighted the audience, the happiest, or at least most popular points being Clara Novello's 'With verdure clad,' and 'In native worth,' by Sims Reeves, and the appropriate reading, by Formes, of the 'furious storm' and 'roaring billows.'

It only remains to add a few words as to the external and financial matters of the festival. The official statement of accounts we have not seen; but the proceeds will render this year a memorable one in the history of the festival, and of the noble charity with which it has now for nearly a century been associated. The receipts on every occasion have exceeded those of corresponding periods at the last festivals, on the Thursday morning reaching the unprecedented sum of above 2,760*l.* But we hope to give detailed accounts of the success of the festival next week, with some notice of the proceedings of the closing day.

Adolphe Adam has gained more laurels by a

new three-act opera, *Si j'étais roi*, brought out on Saturday last at the Théâtre National at Paris. The plot, taken from some story in the 'Arabian Nights,' turns on a fisherman having accidentally saved the daughter of an Asiatic king; of his having, by some curious train of circumstances, been allowed to play the part of king for four-and-twenty hours; of his having in that capacity rendered immense services to the state; and, finally, of his having been rewarded by the hand, in lawful matrimony, of the august princess. The story is very pleasantly worked out, and is more amusing than most comic operas. The music is from end to end charming, and thickly studded with gems of much beauty. Amongst the *morceaux* most admired are, in the first act, a duo between the baritone and soprano, a trio, of sweet and touching melody, a cavatina for the tenor, and a chorus without accompaniment; in the second and third acts, a very amusing duo, a brilliant drinking song, a vigorous chorus of *bonzes*, several pleasing airs, a trio of great power, a romance, and a grand finale. On the whole, the opera is as decided a hit as has been made in Paris for some time, and it deserves to be so. As regards the performers, a curious novelty has been introduced—the opera has been learned by two different companies, and they play it on alternate nights. In Company No. 1, a baritone, M. Pierre Laurent, new to Paris, but of provincial celebrity, has made a decided hit; he has an excellent voice, and is an accomplished musician. The tenor of that company, M. Tallon, is not equal to his colleague in No. 2, M. Carré. The two prime donne are Madame Colson and Mdlle. Noël. They both acquitted themselves tolerably; but are not likely to make much sensation. The secondary characters, both in Company No. 1 and Company No. 2, are well supported. The *mise en scène* of the opera is very splendid. The authors of the libretto are M. Dennery and M. Brazile.

At the Grand Opéra, Verdi's *Jerusalem*, as the *I Lombardi* is called in France, has been restored, but not with the success that was hoped for. This opera has never made great sensation in Paris, probably because it has never been very admirably executed. In the present revival, Chapuis is *Gaston*, and he is better than in any other rôle in which he has yet appeared.

One of the Princes Galitzin of Russia has written to a musical journal at Paris to contradict, in indignant terms, the statement made by all the biographers of Beethoven, to the effect that he never paid him for certain compositions which he got the musician to undertake. The Prince declares that he paid for them in advance, and that Beethoven was very thankful to him for so doing.

THE DRAMA.

The Guild of Literature have been at Liverpool, *Used Up*, *Charles XII.*, and *Mr. Nightingale's Diary* being the pieces performed, successfully both as to fame and funds. At the Royal Amphitheatre, Mrs. Fitzwilliam and Mr. Buckstone have been amusing the people of Liverpool with some of the best Haymarket pieces of the past season. *The Foundlings* and the *Rough Diamond* were selected as presenting characters well adapted for the performers. The farce, *Keely Worried by Buckstone*, is here transformed into *Baker Worried by Buckstone*, Mr. Baker taking his own part.

The theatrical week has been extraordinarily prolific at Paris. Madame George Sand has produced another piece at the Gymnase theatre; it is called the *Démon du Foyer*. The scene of it is laid in Italy, and an opera singer and her adventures are the principal personage and the subject. It has been very successful thus far; but though it displays much literary merit, it is deficient in dramatic interest. It has excited the wrath of some of the Parisian critics, on account of its containing one or two ill-natured sneers at newspaper people, who are out of favour just now in France, and who have besides incurred Madame Sand's special displeasure for having presumed to speak ill of her famous harlequinade, the *Vacances de Pénélope*, with which she had proposed to revolve

tionize the stage. Some of the lady's heartiest admirers are beginning to express doubts whether she really possesses sufficient dramatic talent to shine in the theatre. The extraordinary merit of her *François le Champi* caused it to be hoped that she was destined to be as great on the scene as she undoubtedly is in novel writing; but none of her subsequent efforts have equalled or even approached that work. The manner in which the new piece is acted by the clever troupe of the Gymnase is admirable; it is only in France now-a-days that such perfection in the ensemble can be witnessed. Mdlle. Rachel has returned to the Théâtre Français, and full houses and large receipts have returned with her. The Odéon has re-opened its doors with sundry novelties; the principal is a translation or adaptation of Goethe's *Beaumarchais*, by a certain M. Galoppe. This Galoppe has written a prologue, in which he magnanimously extends his protection to the great German, and expresses a hope that he, Galoppe, will not be blamed for having thought that, when improved by him, Goethe might be permitted to appear before a Parisian audience. Heaven bless the man's impudence! But such naïve presumption is characteristic of the third or fourth-rate French *littérateur*. At the Variétés, a piece taken from Sir Walter Scott's *Guy Rannering* has been prohibited by the police, in consequence of some passages having been made the pretext of political demonstrations hostile to the government. At the same house, the piece called the *Quartier Latin*, which we mentioned in our last as having been forbidden à cause d'immoralité, has been produced with success, after undergoing extensive modifications. The Ambigu has got a new melodrama of enormous length and "intense interest," called *Roguelaire*. It is neither better nor worse than the general run of such productions.

A sort of company has been formed at Paris for translating the principal new pieces of foreign theatres. English authors will do well to recollect that their original pieces cannot legally be translated into French or performed at any French theatre without their permission.

VARIETIES.

Harvard College Library, U.S.—From an account in the 'Cambridge Chronicle' of the recent annual examination of the College Library, it appears that there are now 92,000 volumes belonging to the various departments, including the Theological, Law, Medical, and Society Libraries, besides 26,000 unbound books and pamphlets. The additions during the past year have amounted to 1529 volumes and 2453 pamphlets. Notwithstanding the size of the Library and its richness in some departments, it is lamentably deficient in many particulars. The Committee of the Board of Overseers appointed a sub-committee of their number, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Sharp, the Rev. Dr. Jenks, and George Livermore, Esq., to prepare the annual report, and to present to the Legislature and the public a statement of the many deficiencies and urgent wants of the Library.—*Norton's Literary Gazette.*

Moral Influence of Literature.—He that can write a true book to persuade all England, is not he the bishop and archbishop, the primate of England, and of all England? I many a time say, the writers of newspapers, pamphlets, poems, books, these are the real working effective clergy of a modern country. Nay, not only our preaching, but even our worship, is it not too accomplished by means of printed books? The noble sentiment which a gifted soul has clothed for us in melodious words, which brings melody into our hearts,—is not this essentially, if we will understand it, of the nature of worship? Fragments of a real 'Church Liturgy' and 'Body of Homilies,' strangely disguised from the common eye, are to be found weltering in that huge froth-ocean of printed speech we loosely call literature!—*Thomas Carlyle.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several articles have to stand over on account of the length of the British Association Report.

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